

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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A Revision of the IOU Review List

Paul Hertzel

Recently, the IOU Bird Records Committee revised the list of species for which documentation is requested when a bird is reported in Iowa. This list is called the Review List. Here is a brief background followed by an explanation of the modifications.

The state checklist of birds occurring in Iowa is maintained by the IOU. This list differs from a more theoretical list of all birds *reported* in the state of Iowa, which would be a considerably larger list. The latter would include species not on the official state list but which have been reported in the state, such as Smew, Masked Duck, Scaled Quail, Caribbean Coot, Greater Roadrunner and American Dipper. Upon examination, these reports have been judged to lack sufficient supporting evidence to be accepted in the IOU's scientific database.

By contrast, the 433 species on the current state checklist all have at least one report that has been judged in a scientific sense to be beyond reasonable doubt. For 317 of those accepted species, at least one such report involves a specimen, including one for the extinct Passenger Pigeon and one for the extinct Eskimo Curlew. For another 103 species, the evidence for inclusion is at least one definitive photograph, and for 2 others it is a sound recording of the bird's voice. Only 11 species have been accepted with no specimen, photograph or sound recording.

Of course, most species on the state list appear again and again. As long as a species is found in Iowa in at least 7 of the most recent 10 years, its occurrence may be considered *regular* and reports of it are more or less expected, at least from appropriate habitat at appropriate times of the year. Thus, further photographs or sound recordings for confirmation are not requested, much less a specimen. However, reports of out-of-place or out-of-season individuals may be met with caution from an organization trying to maintain a scientific database. So, for instance, a report of a backyard godwit or a cuckoo standing on the ice in January would almost certainly be met with a request for a photograph.

Then, there are a little more than 100 species on the state list not classified as *regular* due to little or no pattern to their recurrences. Indeed, there are 24 species that have only one accepted record in the state. These rare species may be classified as *casual* if there are 3–8 accepted records in the last 10 years, or *accidental* if there are 0–3 accepted records in the last 10 years.

Until recently, it has been the policy of the IOU reporting scheme to ask for written documentation, preferably accompanied by photos, for reports of any *casual* or *accidental* birds encountered in the state. Documentations submitted are carefully reviewed by a Records Committee of seven individuals who either accept the report or not. Thus, the list of *casual* and *accidental* bird

species has been called the Review List. Reports of birds on the Review List that are properly documented and subsequently accepted by the committee are then published in this journal, *Iowa Bird Life*. Acceptance, then, can be taken to mean accepted for publication and therefore for inclusion in the literature regarding Iowa's birdlife.

Over the last ten years, the committee has averaged 53 reviews annually, with an average of 7 reports not accepted. A report might not be accepted if it's not clear the bird was actually in the state of Iowa, or if the bird is thought not to have occurred naturally (escaped from captivity, arrived artificially, or is a member of a recently introduced population), or if the identification is not beyond reasonable doubt.

The record of Iowa's birdlife has been received and preserved in this way by the IOU for most of the last 50 years, making the information public through quarterly Field Reports published in the journal. However, an alternative resource arose in 2002 when the Cornell Lab of Ornithology launched an internet-based project to create a nation-wide database of bird distributions and abundances. They named the project eBird, and it enables birders to report their sightings online directly to this national project.

It took about 10 years for Cornell to smooth out the workings of eBird and for word to get around that there was an alternative to traditional state ornithological societies for birders to share information. Because all reports can be accessed and/or uploaded to eBird, birders no longer need to negotiate a particular state ornithological society's reporting system. This makes eBird particularly useful to birders visiting other states.

Here in Iowa, the number of seasonal eBird reports has reached roughly 40 times the number of direct IOU reports. In fact, many new birders now seem unfamiliar with the IOU while they report regularly to eBird.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and state ornithological societies share common goals. Both seek to create a database of bird occurrences, and both want their databases to be as scientifically sound as possible. A spirit of cooperation has thus developed. First, eBird allows a state ornithological society access to all reports from that state for use in writing summary reports. In Iowa, this has enabled continued publication of seasonal field reports despite a decrease in the number of reports to the IOU.

Second, although eBird utilizes a system of state and regional reviewers to monitor incoming reports for locally out-of-place or out-of-season birds, they make use of state Records Committees for judgment on Review List bird reports. In Iowa, whether a birder reports a rare bird to eBird or directly to the IOU, they will be asked to document the sighting for review by the IOU Bird Records Committee.

With this more elaborate reporting/reviewing system in place, members of the IOU Bird Records Committee have reconsidered the rationale of the Iowa Review List. Until recently, it has been defined to be the subset of the state checklist consisting of all *casual* and *accidental* species. But although occurring rarely, many of these species are not particularly difficult to identify, and a

good photo can enable a single reviewer to confirm a report. In addition, many have occurred in the state now dozens of times, suggesting the likelihood of recurrence is higher than previously thought.

Thus, the Committee has shifted the principal basis for inclusion on the Review List from the status of a species (*regular/casual/accidental*) to the number of historical occurrences. The Review list now consists of species that have been recorded in Iowa 10 or fewer times, plus a small group of rarely reported species that are considered challenging to properly identify. This change in focus creates a first revision that aligns well with the previous Review List, covering 96 species that were on that list, while leaving off another 21. This new Review List is a smaller subset of its predecessor and therefore contains only species that are *casual* or *accidental*.

In summary, documentation continues to be requested for eBird or IOU reports of the 96 species on the revised Review List. These species are identified on the checklist published at the IOU website. Reports of the 21 *casual* and *accidental* species no longer on the Review List should be accompanied by photos, otherwise eBird reviewers and Field Report editors may request documentation for them. These 21 species are as follows:

Brant	Little Blue Heron	Rock Wren
Harlequin Duck	Black Vulture	Mountain Bluebird
King Rail	Swallow-tailed Kite	Varied Thrush
Black Rail	Ferruginous Hawk	Evening Grosbeak
Snowy Plover	Burrowing Owl	Pine Grosbeak
Red Phalarope	Gyr Falcon	Prairie Warbler
Brown Pelican	Say’s Phoebe	Painted Bunting

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What's Your Trigger Species?

Christopher A. Brochu

There are as many reasons to bird as there are birders. It gets us outside and keeps us in tune with the seasons. We can do it anywhere. We can enjoy the solitude of birding alone or the camaraderie of birding with friends. We appreciate biodiversity in our own neighborhoods. Sightings made while travelling are souvenirs that cannot be lost or stolen. For some, it's a spiritual experience. It sometimes grows into a passion for conservation or a professional career in ornithology. Mostly, though, we do it because we like birds.

But although these may explain why we continue to bird, they don't necessarily explain how got started in the first place. Why do we *become* birders?

Again, the list of reasons is long and varied. We may have been drawn to the hobby by friends and family – Iowa birder David Hartley wrote of this on the American Birding Association's blog in 2013 – or it may have emerged from some other hobby, such as fishing or gardening. But one common reason seems to be the sighting of a bird that really grabs our attention. We look out the window or turn our heads, and there it is – a beautiful bird we've never seen before. It grabs our attention and inspires the search for more - if such marvels as the bird in front of us exist, what else can see? And how many varieties? These are our “trigger” or “spark” birds.

Sociologists have actually studied birders and their motivations, but when it comes to the importance of trigger species, their results seem contradictory. One study (Moore et al., 2008) found that the most important influence on the decision to begin birding was “seeing a particular bird for the first time,” with women rating it slightly more important than men. Conversely, a different study (Randler and Marx, 2022) found that only 17.9 percent listed some sort of “bird experience” as the reason they got involved, and of these, only about half listed “specific experience with a bird.” These two papers drew from different birding communities and asked questions differently, making it difficult to compare them. Still, even if the empirical evidence is weak, trigger birds seem to have played an important role in many of the birders I've encountered.

This past May, I asked people subscribed to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union's listserve (ia-bird@googlegroups.com) to share their trigger bird stories. 18 readers responded. To these, I added my own experiences – the Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches I saw in my grandparents' back yard in Iowa City during my freshman year at UI, along with the Gray Catbirds I encountered while working as a life guard during the summer after graduating high school in New Jersey.

The most striking result of this informal and thoroughly non-scientific survey? An absolute lack of commonality! We were prompted to become birders by unexpected encounters with birds, at least in part - but beyond that, the experiences vary widely.

42.1 percent reported trigger bird experiences as children. One respondent reported trigger bird experiences both as a child and an adult. (I could probably fall under that category, depending on whether time I saw catbirds between high school and college is classified as adolescence or college age.) This reinforces the increased number of young birders we've all seen and welcomed.

The circumstances of the encounters also differed. Most took place in Iowa, and not surprisingly, about half of these were on or near farms. But some were in other states (New Jersey, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin) or other countries (Norway, Canada, Costa Rica). One encounter happened while taking a college natural history course. Four of the encounters involved photography. One respondent expressed early fascination with birds shown on postage stamps and cards included in boxes of tea.

Six of us reported two or more trigger birds. Two of us appear to have been fascinated by the modest differences of two co-occurring close relatives - White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches were central to my decision, and another respondent reported being drawn by different types of Scaup. For the other four, the different trigger birds were unrelated and seen at different times or circumstances.

But what surprised me most was the lack of overlap with the species themselves. Out of the 28 birds reported by respondents, precisely none appeared in more than one response. Equally striking was what some would consider the mundane nature of some of these birds. Seeing a Violet Sabrewing in Costa Rica or a Swallow-tailed Kite in Iowa, where the species is a decided rarity, would inspire almost anyone to look more closely at birds. Pileated woodpeckers are stunners, and hoary redpolls have a subtle but undeniable beauty. But Downy Woodpecker, Barn Swallow, and American Robin also appeared on the list. Birds many would regard as a normal part of the natural background, when considered more closely, changed the lives of others.

Randler and Marx (2022) listed more than 20 reasons people become birders. This was also reflected in some of the responses I received. For some, the inspiration came from a deep appreciation for all birds (or for all wildlife) and conservation without any one specific species being the trigger. The hobby might have emerged from watching feeders and nest boxes, or it was inspired by friends and family members who watched birds.

Although I found myself surprised at the vast diversity of responses, I probably should have expected the diversity I found. Throughout my time in this state, I've encountered birders from all walks of life. I've run into K-12 students, young professionals, and retirees. Rural or urban? Political left, right, or center? Socioeconomic status, career path, personal philosophy? Native or naturalized Iowan? Beyond sharing a love of birds and perhaps an interest in conservation, no two birders are alike. It makes sense that the triggers that brought us together should be as varied as we are.

References:

- Hartley, D. 2013. Of spark birds AND people. birding.typepad.com/aba/2013/02/page/2/
- Moore, R.L., D. Scott, and A. Moore. 2008. Gender-based differences in birdwatchers' participation and commitment. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 13:89-101.
- Randler, C., and N. Marx. 2022. Initial involvement into birding: triggers, gender, and decade effects – a mixed-methods study. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* 9:47.

List of trigger species reported by 19 Iowa birders:

Anseriformes (Anatidae)	Passeriformes (Tyrannidae)
Greater Scaup	Western Kingbird
Lesser Scaup	Passeriformes (Turdidae)
Charadriiformes (Alcidae)	American Robin
Atlantic Puffin	Eastern Bluebird
Charadriiformes (Scolopacidae)	Passeriformes (Hirundinidae)
Long-billed Curlew	Barn Swallow
Apodiformes (Trochilidae)	Passeriformes (Mimidae)
Violet Sabrewing	Gray Catbird
Gruiformes (Gruidae)	Passeriformes (Icteridae)
Sandhill Crane	Baltimore Oriole
Ciconiiformes (Ardeidae)	Bobolink
Gray Heron	Western Meadowlark
Great Blue Heron	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Strigiformes (Strigidae)	Passeriformes (Sittidae)
Great Horned owl	Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Accipitriformes (Accipitridae)	White-Breasted Nuthatch
Bald Eagle	Passeriformes (Carduelinae)
Swallow-tailed Kite	Hoary Redpoll
Piciformes (Picidae)	Passeriformes (Passerellidae)
Red-headed Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Downy Woodpecker	Passeriformes (Laniidae)
Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Shrike

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Field Reports—Winter 2022-23

Francis L. Moore



Francis L. Moore

December - Temperatures for December averaged 21.4°F, or 3.6°F degrees below normal, ranking as the 50th coldest December on record. Monthly average temperatures in December were below normal statewide with the coldest conditions across northwestern Iowa, where departures were up to 6°F colder than average. Sibley *Osceola* reported the month's low temperature of -20°F on the 22nd, 29°F below normal.

December's statewide average maximum temperature was 29.6 °F, 3.6°F below normal, while the average minimum temperature was 13.2°F, 3.5°F below normal.

The statewide maximum reported temperature of 67°F (34°F above normal) was reported in Donnellson *Lee* on the 29th.

Precipitation averaged 1.62 inches or 0.25 inch more than normal, tying 1899 and 1990 as the 34th wettest. A colder December occurred in 2013, while a wetter one was last recorded in 2018. For the second month in a row and only the third month of 2022, Iowa saw above-average precipitation with widespread rainfall in early December. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.46 inch at Hastings *Mills* to 2.93 inches at Primghar *O'Brien*. The statewide average snowfall was 7.8 inches, 0.4 inch below normal.

December 8th and 9th experienced the first widespread rain and snow event of the month as a low pressure system spun through the Upper Midwest. Measurable snow fell across much of northern Iowa, with general totals in the three to six-inch range; Spirit Lake *Dickinson* reported 7.7 inches. Rain was also reported over much of Iowa with a majority of stations measuring at least 0.25 inch of rain or melted snow; Calamus *Clinton* measured 1.07 inches of precipitation with a statewide average coming in at 0.41 inch.

Another stretch of wet days occurred from the 12th through the 16th as multiple weather disturbances pushed through the state. Measurable snow was also reported statewide with less than a half of an inch over Iowa's southern one-quarter, with two to four inches in northern Iowa.

An arctic blast brought temperatures and dry, easily lofted snow across Iowa on the 21st and 22nd. Blizzard conditions were reported throughout the event with falling snow and snow on the ground in the presence of strong northwesterly winds. Snow totals were in the two to four-inch range with pockets of higher totals in north-central and eastern Iowa; Bellevue L&D 12 *Jackson* measured 4.0 inches.

A fast-moving Alberta Clipper brought snowfall across Iowa on Christmas Day, with totals generally under 3.5 inches and a statewide average of 1.5 inches.

A drought status continued, though overall drought and dryness in Iowa improved slightly through the month. Above-normal precipitation in north-west Iowa led to improved conditions, with a reduction in the area designated as D3 (Extreme Drought). By the end of December, the categorical breakdown was as follows: 23% D0 (Abnormally Dry), 37% D1 (Moderate Drought), 21% D2 (Severe Drought), 8% D3 (Extreme Drought), and 1% D4 (Exceptional Drought).

January - Temperatures in January were unseasonably warm across the state, averaging 24.3°F or 4.8°F above normal, tying 1983 as the 26th warmest January in 151 years of statewide records. January's statewide average maximum temperature was 31.3°F, 3.2°F above normal, while the average minimum temperature was 17.2°F, 6.3°F above normal. Donnellson *Lee* reported the month's high temperature of 64°F on the 17th, 32 degrees above normal. Elkader *Clayton* and Stanley *Fayette* reported the month's low temperature of -25°F on the 30th, on average 31°F below normal.

Precipitation averaged 1.82 inches or 0.85 inch above normal, making this January the 12th wettest. All of Iowa's reporting stations observed near to above-average precipitation this month. Above average snowfall blanketed much of northern Iowa with an average snowfall of 9.5 inches, 1.2 inches above average. Portions of northwest Iowa measured up to 20 inches of above average snowfall. Monthly precipitation totals (melted snow and sleet plus rain) ranged from 0.75 inch at a Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) gauge near Bedford *Taylor* to 3.47 inches in Muscatine *Muscatine*.

The Drought Monitor showed limited improvement across Iowa through January. Soil profiles remained frozen with a frost depth between six to 13 inches, with snowpack helping insulate farther than the top inch or two in most areas. Drought conditions improved across south-central and northeast Iowa, and the area in D1 dropped from 37% of the state to about 24%. Portions of the state with no drought or with D0 conditions increased from 10% to 17%.

February - Temperatures averaged 26.3°F or 2.2°F above normal while precipitation totaled 2.4 inches, 0.87 inch above normal. February ranked as the 46th warmest and 7th wettest in 151 years of statewide observational records.

Warmer-than-average temperatures blanketed Iowa in February with the warmest conditions found across eastern Iowa; average temperature departures were up to 5°F above normal. Near-average to slightly cooler conditions were observed in northwestern Iowa, where existing snowpack through the month held temperatures down; snowpack reflects a certain percentage of incoming sunlight. February's statewide maximum temperature was 36.9°F, 3.8°F above normal while the average minimum temperature was 15.7 °F, 0.6°F above normal. Lamoni Municipal Airport *Decatur* reported the month's high temperature of 65°F on the 6th, 30°F above average. Elkader *Clayton* reported the month's low temperature of -25°F on the 1st, 31°F below normal.

National Weather Service co-op stations across the state reported above-av-

erage precipitation in February, which is climatologically the third driest month for Iowa. Monthly precipitation totals (melted snow and sleet plus rain) ranged from 1.03 inches in Sioux Center *Sioux* to 4.53 inches in Iowa City *Johnson*. Statewide snowfall averaged 4.3 inches, 2.5 inches below normal.

Overall - Temperatures for the three winter months of December, January and February averaged 23.9°F or 1.1°F above normal while precipitation totaled 5.63 inches, 2.12 inches above normal. Winter 2022-2023 ties 1957 as the 52nd warmest, with a warmer winter occurring in 2019. In terms of precipitation, December, January, and February rank as the 4th wettest winter; 2018 was wetter and the 3rd wettest. The statewide average snowfall was 21.6 inches, 0.5 inch below normal, making it the 57th snowiest winter in 136 records, with 2020-2021 experiencing more snow.

The US Drought Monitor continues to show improvement across much of the state through February. While the area designated D4 remained unchanged at just under 1%, the remaining drought categories showed improvement. D1 conditions decreased from 25% to 17%, and D2 conditions decreased from 20% to 14%. D3 area in northwestern Iowa experienced good improvement with the aerial coverage decreasing from 8% to 1%.

HABITAT and GENERAL TRENDS

Small goose and puddle duck numbers showed an overall increase, while larger goose species showed a downward trend. Most diving duck species numbers were above average. All three scoter species were found this year, along with the usual number of Long-tailed Ducks. Gallinaceous birds still show lower numbers than what they had in the past. Northern Bobwhite had an increase but are still low compared to historical numbers. Gray Partridge numbers were about average this year compared to prior years.

Gull numbers were higher this year with most reports coming from December and early January. American White Pelicans were found in increased numbers at Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs, with good numbers also found at the locks and dams along the Mississippi River.

There were higher than average numbers of Turkey Vultures again this year with the migration starting in mid-February, a little earlier than usual. Bald Eagle numbers, though, were down a little this season. Reports of accipiters were down from last year, with numbers of Northern Harrier showing a significant increase during the same time period. Owl species all showed a decrease in numbers with only two Snowy Owls being found and lower numbers of Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls as well. Merlin numbers were higher this winter, but American Kestrel numbers were down. Only one Prairie Falcon was reported.

There were higher reports of longspurs and buntings than last year, with a Smith's Longspur showing up as well. Good numbers of wintering sparrows kept things interesting. Bluebird numbers were higher than usual, with several Mountain Bluebirds to help keep the winter colorful and a few Townsend's Solitaires in the mix. Winter finch numbers were down again this year with

only one crossbill species found. Common Redpolls were extremely hard to find, and Pine Siskins numbers were considerably lower this year than last year. There was a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks found as well. Several blackbird species were located around the state, with good numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbird. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creepers were again lower than last year. Only one warbler species was found, but a bonus Scarlet Tanager was located this winter. About the same number of Northern Shrikes were found this winter compared to last year with one Loggerhead Shrike starting its migration earlier than usual.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

The records committee accepted records of four species this winter, all of them accidental or casual in the state: Tundra Bean-Goose, Limpkin, Ferruginous Hawk, and Mountain Bluebird. There were several unusual birds found this winter including Blue-winged Teal, Western Grebe, White-winged Dove, Evening Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Scarlet Tanager.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS – Casual or Accidental species. * – documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** – adult, **AHHP** – Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **BBS** – breeding bird survey, **BCA** – bird conservation area, **CBC** – Christmas bird count, **CP** – county park, **Croton** – Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, **Donnellson** – Donnellson Unit, Shimek State Forest, **ELC** – environmental learning corridor, **ERVP** – East River Valley Park, **Farmington** – Farmington Unit, Shimek State Forest, **GGHW** – Grammer Grove hawk watch, **HHW** – Hitchcock hawk watch, **HP** – heritage park, **imm** – immature, **INHS** – Illinois Natural History Survey, **Is** – Island, **juv** – juvenile, **L** – lake, **L&D** – lock and dam, **Lick Creek** – Lick Creek Unit, Stephens State Forest, **Lucas** – Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest, **M** – marsh, **m.ob.** – many observers, **NC** – nature center, **NM** – national monument, **NW&FR** – national wildlife and fish refuge, **NWR** – national wildlife refuge, **P** – park, **ph** – photo, **PI** – plumage, **R** – river, **RA** – recreation area, **Res** – reservoir, **S Pre** – state preserve, **SF** – state forest, **Sl** – slough, **SL** – sewage lagoons, **SP** – state park, **SR** – State Reserve, **SRA** – state recreation area, **Thousand Acre** – Thousand Acre Unit, Stephens State Forest, **Tr** – trail, **Upper Miss NWR** – Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge, **USFWS** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **USNWR** – Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **W** – wetland, **WA** – wildlife area, **Whitebreast** – Whitebreast Unit, Stephens State Forest, **WPA** – waterfowl production area, **yg** – young.

Snow Goose: Highest numbers were 2000-25000 on 12-20 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG, JKe, SD), 4000 on 21 Feb at near Lone

Tree *Johnson* (WV), 3900-5000 on 25 Feb at Montrose *Lee* (SBi, RiD), 1200 on 27 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 50000 on 28 Feb in

rural *Woodbury* (GLV).

Ross's Goose: There were 113 reports this year after 39 last year with highest numbers of 15 on 31 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JSy), 12-24 on 19-20 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG), nine on 20 Feb at Montrose *Lee* (RiD), eight on 22 Feb at near Lamoni *Decatur* (LW), and 50 on 28 Feb in rural *Woodbury* (GLV).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Highest numbers were 1200 on 24 Jan at Crapo P *Des Moines* (SBi), 2300-10000 on 11-28 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG, SD, BCC, DH, PMo, JMc), 2100 on 12 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB), 2000 on 18 Feb at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (SBi), 10000 on 25 Feb at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (SGi), 5000 on 27 Feb at Hendrickson M WA *Story* (EKe), and 5000 on 28 Feb in rural *Woodbury* (GLV).

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE: One individual continuing from the fall, there were 174 reports for this Accidental species reported from 29 Nov-17 Dec in the winter season near Lamoni and Davis City, L LaShane, Big G L and other nearby locations *Decatur* (*BAB-ph, *POR-ph, *GDW-ph, *MHB-ph, *JB-ph, *TMH-ph, *JTo-ph, *CRE-ph, *KVS-ph, *DiB-ph, *DH-ph, *EKe-ph, *MaH-ph, BiB, ph).

Cackling Goose: There were 585 reports this year compared to 374 last year: Highest numbers were 275 on 16 Dec at Green Is WA *Jackson* (KJM), 200 on 17 Dec at Snyder Bend L *Woodbury* (JP), 900 on 19 Dec at Corydon L P *Wayne* (JaB), 50 on 31 Dec at L Wapello SP *Davis* (ARo), 60 on 10 Feb at Little Sioux

R *Harrison* (NHa), and 104 on 18 Feb at Big Sioux R Bike Tr *Woodbury* (KKe, MKe).

Canada Goose: The largest concentrations were 6000 on 9 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (NS), 9000 on 9 Jan at Johnston pits *Polk* (RLC), and 8000 on 28 Feb in rural *Woodbury* (GLV).

Mute Swan: Five records this year: 1-4 on 5 Dec-28 Feb along Mississippi R L&D 14 *Scott* (SMF, m.ob.), one on 20 Jan-15 Feb at a farm pond along US Hwy 6 *Johnson* (JKe, m.ob.), one on 26 Jan-4 Feb at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JMc, ThD, JMcC), one on 13-19 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT, TJD, RLC, AB, JB), and two on 19 Feb at Driscoll's Is *Jackson* (HBA, TM).

Trumpeter Swan: There were 1082 reports from around the state this winter with high counts of 1607 on 21 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM, JaM), 400-447 on 13-19 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD, EEO, JB, AB), 1500+ on 25 Feb at Bulger's Hollow *Clinton* (EEO), and 400 on 21 Feb near Conesville *Muscatine* (WV), and 439 on 26 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG).

Tundra Swan: There were 63



Tundra Swan, Black Hawk Lake, Sac, 18 February 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

reports including high counts of 20 on 14 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (JL) ten on 19 Dec north of Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (DSc), and ten on 26 Feb at Princeton WA *Scott* (KR).

Wood Duck: There were 55 reports this year after 21 last year. Highest number: Seven on 26 Feb at Princeton WA *Scott* (KR), six on 28 Feb at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (HDP), and eight on 28 Feb at Arney Bend WA *Marshall* (MP).

Blue-winged Teal: Only one report again this season: one on 3 Dec at East Lake P *Clarke* (DeT).

Northern Shoveler: There were 46 reports this year after 76 reports last year. Highest numbers reported: eight on 1 Dec at L McBride *Johnson* (RR), eight on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 25 on 18 Feb at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (SBi), and eight on 25 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG).

Gadwall: There were 128 reports this year after 124 last year with highest numbers of 25 on 25 Feb at Bulger's Hollow *Clinton* (EEO), 22 on 27 Feb at Swan L Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JKe), and 24 on 28 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (LQ, LGR, ShS).

American Wigeon: There were 89 reports this winter after 73 last year with highs of ten on 3 Dec at Lake McBride *Johnson* (ASc, MWi), 13 on 17 Dec at L&D 13, Mississippi R *Clinton* (ARi, RRI), and eight on 27 Dec at Big Creek Spillway, Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Mallard: Highest numbers reported were 2100 on 1 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB), 2000 on 10-11 Dec at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (AIB), 2100 on 16 Dec at Rathbun L

Appanoose (RLC), 2000 on 19 Dec at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (JeJ), and 2500 -5000 on 28 Dec-4 Feb at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (GE, SE, DCu).

American Black Duck: There were 49 reports this year after 90 last year with most coming from eastern and central Iowa and two from western Iowa. Highest numbers were four on 10-12 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, BoP), four on 19 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), four on 26 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JaJ), and four on 20-25 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG).

Northern Pintail: There were 190 reports for the period after 136 last year. High counts were 300 on 19-26 Feb at Green Is WA *Jackson* (TM), 300 on 23 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (DaW), and 880-1600 on 27-28 Feb at Big Creek Spillway, Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RJT, RLC).

Green-winged Teal: There were 90 reports this year after 66 last year. Highest counts were 22 on 3 Dec in rural *Henry* (KJM), 45 on 3 Dec at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (SBu), and 23 on 16 Dec at Lake Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC).

Canvasback: A total of 121 reports were submitted this year after 190 last year with high counts of 25935 on 10 Dec at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD), 23400 on 11 Jan at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD), 4100 on 20 Feb at Linger Longer P *Lee* (RiD), and 3500 on 25 Feb at Bulger's Hollow *Clinton* (EEO).

Redhead: There were 127 reports this year: Highest counts were 20 on 25 Feb at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* (ARo), 100 on 25 Feb at Bulg-

er's Hollow *Clinton* (EEO), 22 on 28 Feb at AHHP *Story* (WO), and 65 on 28 Feb at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (CW).

Ring-necked Duck: There were 229 reports this year: Highest counts were 1000 on 2 Dec at Donnellson *Lee* (BK), 94 on 14 Jan at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (BFH, BZa, JP, JPr, KKe, MKe, RaW), 250 on 25 Feb at Bulger's Hollow *Clinton* (EEO), and 200 on 28 Feb at Princeton WA *Scott* (KR).

Greater Scaup: There were 38 reports this year after 40 last year with high counts of five on 5 Dec at L&D 13 *Clinton* (TM), four on 8-10 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RJT, RLC), and four on 14 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (RLC, TJD).

Lesser Scaup: There were 252 reports this winter after 287 last year. Highest counts: 100 on 5 Dec at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (SMF), 150 on 20 Feb at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (SMF), and 200 on 27 Feb at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (RR).

Surf Scoter: Only one record this winter: one on 4-7 Dec at Lindsay P *Scott* (RAS, WGH).

White-winged Scoter: Three records this winter: one imm/female on 10 Dec at Big Woods L *Black Hawk* (AKO, AlB, WV), one ad male on 19 Dec at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD), and one juv male on 27 Dec at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD).

Black Scoter: One female/juv on 19 Dec at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD).

Long-tailed Duck: There were 21 reports this season after 18 last year. This year there was seven from the central part of the state and

fourteen from the eastern part of the state, most along the Mississippi R and were of single birds. There was one female and one male on 1-5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JB, RLC) and one ad female and one juv female on 27 Dec at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD).

Bufflehead: There were 131 reports this year after 75 last year with highs of 73-150 on 11-14 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB, JL), 40 on 16 Dec at Mississippi R *Jackson* (KJM), and 45 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

Common Goldeneye: There were 653 reports this season with highs of 450 on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 410 on 21 Jan at LeClair *Scott* (JMc, MMa), and 1000 on 25 Feb at Linger Longer P *Lee* (SBi).

Hooded Merganser: There were 266 reports this year with highs of 20 on 2 Dec at L&D 9 Mississippi R *Allamakee* (BT, JTo), 22-28 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT, RLC), and 75 on 6 Dec at Lake Rathbun *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Common Merganser: There were 4259 reports this season with highs of 6400 on 9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 29200 on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Red-breasted Merganser: There were 41 reports this season after 37 last year. High counts were: 14-15 on 10-11 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, KJAB) and eight on 18 Dec at Sand L *Marshall* (ASp).

Ruddy Duck: There were 81 reports this year after 51 last year and 263 the year before. High counts were 15 on 1 Dec at Lake McBride *Johnson* (RR), 14 on 3 Dec at Little

River L *Decatur* (JE), 11 on 4 Dec at Twelve Mile L *Union* (JG), and 11 on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Northern Bobwhite: Twenty-one reports this winter compared to eight last year and seventeen the year before. High counts were 18 on 3 Dec near Ellston *Union* (BAB), 15 on 17 Dec at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB), and 15 on 14 Feb near Clarinda *Page* (SD).

Wild Turkey: High counts: 41 on 19 Dec at Yellow River SF *Al-lamakee* (PDBS), 60 on 1 Jan near Council Bluffs *Mills* (TKa), 47 on 9 Jan near Ellston *Union* (JLi), and 60 on 6 Feb in rural *Woodbury* (GLV).

Gray Partridge: Fifty reports this year after eighteen last year and 87 the year before. High counts were: 11 on 9 Jan near Milford *Dick-inson* (ET), 11 on 10 Jan near Spirit Lake *Dickinson* (ET), 15 on 20 Jan near Greene *Butler* (CPL), 11 on 21 Jan near Kelley *Story* (JG), and 13 on 10 Feb near Nora Springs *Cerro Gordo* (JK, MH).

Ring-necked Pheasant: There were 593 reports this year after 444 last year and 714 the year before. High numbers were: 84 on 25 Dec in rural *Buchanan* (KJM), 75 on 14 Jan at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahon-tas* (DSi), 75 on 21 Jan at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BFH, JP), 75 on 23 Jan in rural Nevada *Story* (WiC), 125 on 24 Jan in rural Thompson *Winnebago* (CPL), and 85 on 18 Feb in rural McCallsburg *Story* (EEO).

Pied-billed Grebe: This year there were 31 reports after ten last year and 51 the year before, 22 were from central and nine were from

eastern Iowa. All reports were of one or two individuals except three on 3 Dec at AHHP *Story* (PMi, WiC).

Horned Grebe: Three records: one on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT, RLC), one on 25 Feb at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* (ARo), and one on 25 Feb at I-80 Bridge LeClair *Scott* (EEO).

Western Grebe: One record: one continuing from the fall from 1-3 Dec at Lake McBride SP *John-son* (MMa, RR, JF, HDP, JDM, ASc, MWi, JMc).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: High-est counts were 40 on 10 Dec at near Bronson *Woodbury* (TJL), 75-106 on 7 Jan-4 Feb at Brenton Feedlot *Dal-las* (AB), 50 on 22 Jan in rural *John-son* (JMc).

White-winged Dove: One with good details was seen on 3 Jan at Sunbury *Cedar* (WGH).

Mourning Dove: High counts of 82 on 18 Dec in rural *Polk* (CW), 97 on 21 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), and 254 on 24 Dec along Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM).

American Coot: There were 67 reports this year after 83 last year. Highest counts were: 63 on 4 Dec at Twelve Mile L *Union* (JG), 24 on 7 Dec at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RJT), and 22 on 14 Dec along Mis-sissippi R *Clinton* (KJM).

LIMPKIN: One continuing from the fall from 20 Oct-19 Dec at a private residence at Woodland L Bondurant *Polk* (*ML, ph, *AB, ph, *POR, ph, *CW. ph, *TMH, ph, NAc, JeP). The owner of the resi-dence on the lake had been seeing the bird for about a week before its de-mise because of cold weather on 19 Dec at which time the specimen was

transferred to Iowa State University to be added to its archives.

Sandhill Crane: There were 41 reports this winter after 32 last winter with high counts of 71 on 14 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM, MR, CJ, JeSt) and 10-14 on 25-28 Feb at Cone M WA *Louisa* (PMo, TMa, MMA).

Killdeer: There were 157 reports this year after 66 last year and 27 the year before. Highest numbers were seven on 20 Feb at Cone M WA *Louisa* (LQ), five on 26 Feb at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB), and five on 28 Feb at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (JKe).

American Woodcock: Only one report of three on 28 Feb near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

Wilson's Snipe: Three reports this year with two in central Iowa and one in eastern Iowa: one on 3 Dec at Little River RA *Decatur* (JE), one on 6 Dec near Lamoni *Decatur* (WV), and one on 2 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (PMo).

Black-legged Kittiwake: There were sixteen reports of two individual birds this season: One on 9 Dec at AY McDonald P *Dubuque* (TM) and one ad on 13-15 Dec at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (JF, JKe, FSS, JoB, RAS, SMF, DAS, ElW, JL, KaD, WV, DH, SLA, SN).

Bonaparte's Gull: There were ten reports of late birds with counts of 1-17 on 1-4 Dec all at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, AB, MP, RJT, DTh).

Ring-billed Gull: Highest numbers were 10000 on 5 Dec at Iowa City *Johnson* (JKe), 5800 on 10 Dec at Elk Rock SP *Marion* (JG), and 1000 ON 23 Feb at Otley *Marion* (DaW).

Herring Gull: High counts: 450

on 10 Dec at Elk Rock SP *Marion* (JG), 350 on 20 Jan at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (SMF), and 500 on 13 Feb at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (SMF).

Iceland Gull: There were 84 reports this year after 70 last year and 48 the year before with most of them showing up in gull flocks at the various water impoundments and river dams in the eastern part of the state: Highest numbers: three (two ad, one 1st cycle) on 10 Dec at Elk Rock SP *Marion* (JG), three (three ad L Thayeri) on 17 Dec at Ottumwa *Wapello* (JF), and seven (5 ad, 2 2nd cycle) on 6 Jan-25 Feb at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (JF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 143 reports this winter after 88 last year and 40 the year before. This species was widely reported in gull flocks at the various water impoundments and river dams in central and eastern Iowa. High counts: seven on 17 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 13 on 15 Jan at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD) and 11-15 on 18-24 Feb at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (SMF).

Glaucous Gull: There were 15 reports this winter after 54 last year and 13 the year before. All reports were of single individuals and were from the large water impoundments in central Iowa and along the Mississippi R from Clinton to Davenport.

Great Black-backed Gull: There were four records of this species (with 40 separate reports) this winter: One 2nd cycle on 9-13 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, SJD, m.ob.), one 1st cycle on 18 Dec at L&D 15 Mississippi R *Scott* (*BLB, CTB, JNo), one 2nd cycle on 15 Jan

at Pool 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD), and two (one 1st cycle, one 2nd cycle) on 7-25 Feb at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (DP, JF, m.ob.).

Common Loon: One report this winter after 16 last year: One on 11 Dec at L&D 14 Mississippi R *Scott* (BAW).

Double-crested Cormorant: There were 41 reports this year after 54 last year and 36 the year before. Highest numbers were six on 1 Dec at Buffalo Shores *Scott* (RAS) and 4-5 on 2-7 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, AB, RJT, TJD).

American White Pelican: There were 331 reports throughout the period after 276 last year and 264 the year before, most below the dams at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Red Rock Res *Marion* and at L&D 19 on the Mississippi R Keokuk *Lee*. High counts were 775 on 11 Jan at L&D 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD) and 546 on 18 Feb at Ft. Madison *Lee* (SBi).

Great Blue Heron: There were 104 reports submitted this year after 64 last year and 88 the year before with high counts of 13 on 18 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 31 on 7 Jan at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (SBi).

Turkey Vulture: There were 23 reports this year after 13 last year and five the year before. This winter the last migrants south were seen on December 29 while the northward migrants started showing up on 11 Feb with 100 reports coming from that date through the end of Feb, a very high number for that early in the year. Highest was five on 24 Feb at Glendale Cemetery *Polk* (KBr).

Golden Eagle: There were 29 reports this year compared to 20 last year. Eight from Dec, 12 from Jan

and eight from Feb, with the following distributions: 13 from western, eight from central, and eight from eastern Iowa. Highest numbers were two on 21 Jan near Decorah *Winneshiek* (JoMcD) and two on 25 Feb near Don Williams RA *Boone* (DCH).

Northern Harrier: There were 556 reports this year after 251 last year and 205 the year before with highs of five on 2 Dec at Big G L *Decatur* (KWL), five on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), seven on 16 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (KJM), and seven on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A total of 143 reports this year after 175 last year, with 26 from western, 58 from central, and 59 from eastern Iowa.

Cooper's Hawk: A total of 328 reports this year after 462 last year and 402 the year before, with 53 from western, 101 from central, and 174 from eastern Iowa.

American Goshawk: One report this winter: One on 17 Dec near Terre Haute *Decatur* (LW).



Bald Eagle, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 31 December 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Bald Eagle: There were 3175 reports this winter after 3249 last year and 2747 the year before. High

counts on the Mississippi R included 197 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM, m.ob.), 143 on 7 Jan at Montrose *Lee* (SBI), and 191 on 10 Jan along Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM, m.ob.). High counts away from the Mississippi R were 203 on 18 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 250 on 18 Feb at Saylorville WA *Polk* (WBJ), and 310 on 26 Feb at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB).



Red-tailed Hawk, Madrid, Boone, 27 February 2023. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were 84 reports this season after 92 last year and 78 the year before with high counts of two from eight locations and the rest being one individual. There were also 28 from the central and 56 from the eastern part of the state (none reported from the west).

Red-tailed Hawk: There were 26 Harlan's/dark morph, five Kridler's/light morph reported this winter. Highest counts were 22 on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), 20 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), and 27 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Rough-legged Hawk: There were 590 reports totaling 768 individuals this winter. Highest numbers were seven on 23 Dec in rural *Muscantine* (KJM, m.ob.) and 14 on 4 Jan

in rural *Clayton* (KJM, m.ob.).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: One adult light morph individual reported by 55 observers from 6 Jan-6 Feb near Boone *Boone* (*CW, ph, *JB, ph, *AB, ph, *BT, ph, *CRE, *TMH, ph, *WO, ph).

Eastern Screech-Owl: A total of 44 reports for this common nocturnal species, with 86 last year, with high counts of seven on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), six on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), and 14 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Great Horned Owl: There were 175 reports and a total of 247 individuals of this common species after 232 reports last year and 287 the year before. High numbers were six on 18 Dec at Jester P *Polk* (WO), 11 on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM) and nine on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Snowy Owl: There were two reports this winter, one on 8 Jan south of Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (CJF) and one on 27 Feb in rural *Grundy* (KJM). There were 20 reports last year after 16 the year before and one the year before that.

Barred Owl: There were 312 reports this year for this common species during the period after 363 last year and 322 the year before. Highs were six on 18 Dec at Jester P *Polk* (WO) and 13 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Long-eared Owl: There were seven reports this year after 38 last year and 25 the year before. Highest numbers: Two on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), seven on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), and two on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Short-eared Owl: There were 92 reports from across the state this

winter after 91 last year. Highest numbers reported were five on 26 Dec and 9 Jan near Sloan *Monona* (MaH) and five on 22 Jan at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (VJP).



Short-eared Owl, Neal Smith NWR, Jasper, 26 December 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: There were a total of 41 reports this winter after 55 last year. All but one was of single birds from the eastern and central sections of the state with two reports from the west, the only report of multiple birds was two on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM). The majority of reports came from Hickory Hill P *Johnson* and George With SP *Black Hawk*.

Belted Kingfisher: A total of 237 reports of 263 individuals after 230 reports and 254 individuals last year with high counts of four on 14 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), four on 18 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), four on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and seven on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 653 reports this winter after 250 last year and 165 the year before. Highs: 33 on 15 Dec at Swamp White Oak Preserve *Muscatine* (LGR, LQ), 38 on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), and 20 on 20 Dec at Syracuse WA

Clinton (KJM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: There were 2838 reports this year after 3233 last year and 3137 the year before with highs of 36 on 18 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 35 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and 56 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: There were 26 reports, all from the central and eastern part of the state after 88 reports last year. All but two were of single individuals. Highest counts were two on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM) and two on 9 Jan at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (DAS).

Downy Woodpecker: There were 3326 reports statewide this year with high counts of 62 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 48 on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM), and 53 on 4 Jan in rural *Clinton* (KJM).

Hairy Woodpecker: There were 1347 reports statewide after 1420 last year and 1664 the year before with highs of 17 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 19 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and 11 on 4 Jan along Mississippi R *Muscatine* (KJM).

Northern Flicker: A total of 883 reports were submitted after 970 last year and 531 the year before with highs of 15 on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), 14 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and ten on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Pileated Woodpecker: A total of 278 reports of 346 individuals after 343 reports and 438 individuals last year and 259 reports the year before, with all but five records from central and eastern Iowa. High counts were five on 20 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (KJM), five on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and five

in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

American Kestrel: There were 885 reports of a total of 1097 individuals after 812 reports and 1199 individuals last year and 823 report the year before. High counts were 14 on 21 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM) and 28 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).



American Kestrel, T Avenue & 300th, Boone, 15 January 2023. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

Merlin: A total of 141 were reported after 112 last year and 113 the year before from 38 counties with a high of two on 30 Jan at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BFH, JP) and two on 4 Feb at Glendale Cemetery *Polk* (WWi). Of those that reported races only three were identified as *F. c. richardsonii* and two were identified as *F. c. columbarius*.

Peregrine Falcon: All: One on 11 Dec-11 Feb in Quad Cities (from LeClair to L&D 14 and L&D 15 Mississippi R *Scott* (BAW, SMF, BT, JTo, FSS, MaM, TM), one on 17 Dec in Burlington *Des Moines* (SBi), one on 23 Dec-21 Jan near Riverside P, Muscatine *Muscatine* (HL, PL, PB, TO), one on 24 Jan near Moscow *Muscatine* (WGH), and one on 26 Dec-25 Feb in downtown Cedar Rapids *Linn* (CT, WV, PMo, KaD).

Prairie Falcon: Only one re-

ported on 31 Jan at Garner Cemetery *Hancock* (RGo).

Eastern Phoebe: There were two reports this year: One on 14 Dec at a private residence *Johnson* (MF) and one on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (*KJM, JaM).

Loggerhead Shrike: Only one reported on 4 Feb near Davis City *Decatur* (LW).

Northern Shrike: There were 164 reports this winter of 171 individuals with most of them scattered over the northern two-thirds of the state after 91 reports and 94 individuals last year except one on 2-11 Dec near Lamoni and Davis City *Decatur* (LW, KaD, WV, BAB, CPL, MSc) and one on 24-25 Feb near Cantril and Keosauqua *Van Buren* (CHa).

Tufted Titmouse: There were 826 reports after 835 reports last year and 1083 the year before with highs of 21 on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM) and 22 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Horned Lark: There were 615 reports after 474 last year and 751 the year before with highs of 450 on 25 Dec near LeMars *Plymouth* (StS), 500 on 29 Jan at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (AB), and 1500 on 31 Jan near Pella *Marion* (EKe).



Horned Lark, Harrier Marsh area, Boone, 29 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: There were three reports this year after 14 last year and eight the year before: One on 14 Dec at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (MR), one on 18 Dec at Polk City *Polk* (SJD), and one on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: There were 15 reports this season after 70 last year and 37 the year before. High counts were five on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), three on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), and three on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Bohemian Waxwing: Two reports for this winter: One on 5 Feb at McIntosh Woods WA *Cerro Gordo* (CPL) and one on 5 Feb near Sutherland O'Brien (DSi).

Cedar Waxwing: There were 271 reports this season after 338 last year: High counts were 100 on 3 Dec at East Lake P *Clarke* (DeT), 100 on 9 Dec at Lake LaShane *Decatur* (MiW, MN), and 100 on 18 Feb at Stone SP *Woodbury* (KKe, MKe).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 257 reports of this species after 369 last year and 509 the year before coming from throughout the state. Numbers were at or a little below normal this year. Highs: four on 4 Dec at Cedar River Riverside Trail *Black Hawk* (AMu), seven on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM), four on 9 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW), and four on 11 Feb at Roslien Woods Luther College *Winneshiek* (BVe).

Brown Creeper: There were 244 reports this year after 454 last year. The highest numbers were 11 on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), six on 31 Dec at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* (DSi), six on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and seven on 4 Jan

in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Carolina Wren: There were 166 reports this season with a total of 194 individuals after 163 reports and 209 individuals last year and 582 reports and 661 individuals the year before. Most reports were of one or two individuals, mostly from the southern and eastern parts of the state, with high counts of three on 1 Jan in Ames *Story* (EEO) and four on 28 Feb at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (AdB).

Winter Wren: There were 31 reports from throughout the season with a total of 39 individuals after 104 reports of 140 individuals last year with high counts of five on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM) and three on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

Brown Thrasher: One report this winter of one on 8 Dec at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP) after six records last year.

Northern Mockingbird: Three records with 11 reports after two records last winter season: One on 2-9 Dec near Lamoni *Decatur* (EW, JNe, PF, SBa, SM, BRo, EHj, CPL), one on 3-4 Dec at Harvest Preserve *Johnson* (JMc), and two on 29 Dec on Iowa / *Johnson* line (JLF).

Eastern Bluebird: There were 490 reports this year after 235 last year with high counts of 25 on 18 Dec at Palisades P *Decorah Winneshiek* (BVe), 61 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and 16-27 on 18 Jan at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JB, RJT).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: Two were reported in rural *Guthrie*, one female from 29 Dec-17 Jan and one male from 1-9 Jan at the same location (*KFi, ph, *VW, ph, *CW, ph, *JB, ph, *AB, ph, *JTo, ph, *AMJ), one female was found on 1 Jan in ru-

ral *Carroll* (RIA/PHA, ph), and one female was found on 20 Feb in rural *Dallas* (EP, JPi, ph, *WV, ph).

Townsend's Solitaire: Three records this year: one on 31 Dec at Crawford Creek RA *Ida* (BFH, JP), one on 24 Jan in rural *Benton* (ElW, ph), and one on 10-12 Feb near Sutherland *O'Brien* (ET, ph, DSi, ph).

Hermit Thrush: There were 21 reports this season after 28 last year, highest were two on 3 Dec at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (SBu) and six on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM).

American Robin: Numbers were closer to normal this year with 665 reports with 867 reports last year and 598 the year before, with high counts of 326 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 250 on 29 Jan at Smith WA *Pottawattamie* (DMa) and 320 on 14 Feb at Big Creek WA *Polk* (CW).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Widely reported with a total of 648 reports this year after 582 last year and 692 the year before. They have finally arrived in the far northwest of Iowa with one on 16 Feb at the Salix Dairy Farm ponds in rural *Woodbury* (*BFH, ph, JP). High counts were 174 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM) and 214 on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM).

Evening Grosbeak: Eight were found on 3 Jan near the Big Spring Fish Hatchery *Clayton* (*KJM, JaM), good details.

Purple Finch: There were 110 reports this year after 136 last year and 272 the year before. High counts were 17 on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM) and 20-37 on 22 Jan-5 Feb at Indian Village SR *O'Brien* (DSi).

Common Redpoll: There were only two reports this year after 383 last year and 41 the year before. All: One on 14 Dec at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (AA, BA) and one on 11 Jan at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JAl).

Red Crossbill: Only one was found on 31 Dec at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* (GLV).

Pine Siskin: There were 40 reports this season after 129 last year and 582 the year before. High counts: four on 18 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM) and ten on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM).

American Goldfinch: High counts this year were 82 on 9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 160 on 26 Dec at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BFH, JP), 80 on 12 Jan at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BFH, JP), and 88 on 29 Jan at Waterloo *Black Hawk* (DTM).

Lapland Longspur: There were 186 reports this year after 129 last year with high counts of 1400 on 5 Dec east of L LaShane *Decatur* (BAB), 800 on 10 Dec near Lamoni *Decatur* (LW), and 400 on 15 Dec near Winterset *Marion* (ErB).

Smith's Longspur: One record with three reports of one individual on 18 Dec near Granger *Dallas* (EEO, WO, good details).

Snow Bunting: There were 304 reports this winter after 103 last year and 50 the year before. The largest numbers were 713 on 17 Jan near Curlew *Palo Alto* (DSi), 1000 on 22 Jan at Waubonsie Access WA *Freemont* (JGi), 350 on 25 Jan in rural eastern *Johnson* (JMc), and 350 on 26 Jan near Iowa City *Johnson* (SN).

Chipping Sparrow: Three re-

cords this year: One on 10 Dec-18 Feb near Sloan *Monona* (MaH, CoH), one on 28 Jan at Long Grove *Scott* (RyC), and one on 26 Feb at Ames *Story* (KGr).

Field Sparrow: Two on 3 Feb at Mormon Handcart P *Johnson* (JMc) and one on 25 Feb at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (AdB).

Fox Sparrow: There were 58 reports for this species after 119 last year and 46 the year before. Highest counts were three on 22 Jan at Indian Village SR *O'Brien* (DSi) and three on 27 Jan at Big Creek SP *Polk* (BGr).

American Tree Sparrow: High counts: 556 on 21 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), 592 on 25 Dec in rural *Buchanan* (KJM), and 325 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (FLM).

Dark-eyed Junco: There were six white-winged race and 28 Oregon/Pink-sided race individuals reported. High numbers reported were 605 on 14 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), 1016 on 25 Dec in rural *Buchanan* (KJM), and 621 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).



White-crowned Sparrow, Lake Red Rock, Marion, 7 January 2023. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

White-crowned Sparrow: There were 233 reports this year after 249 last year and 194 the year before with

high counts of 12 on 8 Dec at Lost Grove WA *Scott* (RyC), 11 on 7 Jan at AHHP *Story* (WO), and 20 on 16 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DH).

Harris's Sparrow: There were 364 reports this year after 95 last year and 201 the year before with high counts of 16 on 11 Dec at Urbandale *Polk* (BE), 13 on 17 Dec in rural Ames *Story* (KJ), and 11 on 13 Feb at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (KP, SP).

White-throated Sparrow: There were 578 reports this year after 654 last year and 587 the year before. High counts were 20 on 17 Dec at Bever P *Linn* (JE, WWH) and 21 on 25 Feb at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (AdB).

LeConte's Sparrow: One report of two on 14 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe) with good details.

Savannah Sparrow: Three reports this season: One Dec at Des Moines *Polk* (BE), one on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (*KJM, MR), and two on 7 Jan at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM).

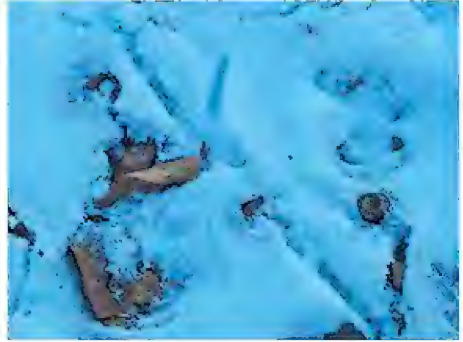
Song Sparrow: There were 700 reports this year after 506 last year and 806 the year before. High counts were 24 on 18 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 27 on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM), and 26 on 25 Jan at Cedar L *Linn* (JE).

Lincoln's Sparrow: One report this year of one on 4 Dec at Solon Recreation & Nature Area *Johnson* (ElW).

Swamp Sparrow: There were 65 reports this year after 63 last year and 91 the year before with a high of five on 10 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS) and five on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).



Eurasian Collared-Dove, Harrier Marsh area, Boone, 31 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Limpkin, Woodland Lake, Polk, 18 December 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Golden Eagle, Waterman Creek area, O'Brien, 15 January 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Northern Harrier, Westmoreland Wildlife Area, Pocahontas, 18 February 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Bald Eagle, Madrid, Boone, 28 December 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Red-shouldered Hawk, Hills, Johnson, 28 December 2022. Photograph by Adam W. Ciha, Hills, IA..



Red-tailed Hawk, Vandalia Road SE Des Moines, Polk, 31 January 2023. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.



Rough-legged Hawk, Leo Shimon Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Pocahontas, 24 January 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



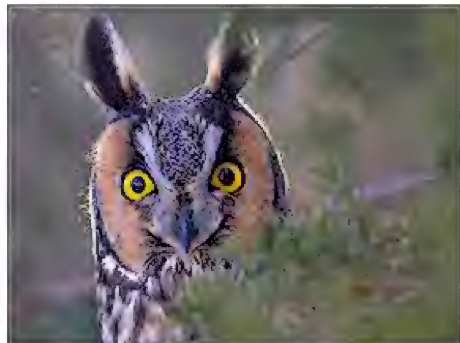
Ferruginous Hawk, 1982-1998 240th Street, Boone, Iowa, US (42.009, -, Boone, 21 January 2023. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Ferruginous Hawk, 1980 240th St, Boone, 6 February 2023. Photograph by Wolfgang Oesterreich, Ames, IA.



Eastern Screech-Owl, Spark's Cemetery area, Boone, 26 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Long-eared Owl, North of Breda private property, Sac, 8 February 2023. Photograph by Elizabeth Partridge Blessington, Breda, IA.



Short-eared Owl, Big Creek State Park, 100th st., Polk, 28 December 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Northern Flicker, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, 30 January 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Northern Flicker, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, 30 January 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Merlin, Spark's Cemetery area, Boone, 22 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Northern Shrike, Open country, Dallas, 7 January 2023. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.



Horned Lark, Harrier Marsh area, Boone, 30 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, Granger, Dallas, 4 January 2023. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.



Mountain Bluebird, 120th St. & Dogwood Ave., Guthrie, 29 December 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Townsend's Solitaire, Waterman Creek area, O'Brien, 12 February 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.



Dark-eyed Junco, Big Creek State Park, Polk, 5 December 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



White-crowned Sparrow, Iowa Arboretum area, Boone, 7 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Northern Cardinal, Ogden backyard, Boone, 2 December 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.

Spotted Towhee: There were 23 reports consisting of six records this winter. One male on 14 Dec at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), one on 28 Dec at Glenwood *Mills* (CDB), one male on 31 Dec at Saylorville WA *Boone* (WO), one female and one male from 13 Jan-26 Feb at Jennett Heritage Area *Story* (AYa, ARe, BBe, EE, HL, WiC, EKe, KaD, WV, EEO, KeB, RJT), one on 31 Jan at a private residence *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), and one male on 17-18 Dec at Crescent *Pottawattamie* (LGe).

Eastern Towhee: Five records this winter: two on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), one male on 18 Dec at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JPa), one on 20 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), one female on 11 Jan south of Montrose *Lee* (SJD, ph), and one male on 17 Jan at Slip Bluff P *Decatur* (LW).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One was found this winter on 4-6 Jan on a farm near Rippey *Greene* (CR).

Eastern Meadowlark: There were 14 reports this winter that included ten records after four last year with five giving call notes or singing.

Western Meadowlark: There were 55 reports this winter after 22 last year including 26 giving call notes or singing.

Red-winged Blackbird: High counts were 1600 on 31 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 1000 on 4 Feb at Green Island WA *Jackson* (GDe, SDe), 10000+ on 22 Feb at Browns L/IPS WA *Woodbury* (BFH, JP), and 968 on 27 Feb in rural *Scott* (KJM).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High counts: 250 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 235 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and 300 on 11-20

Feb at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (RJT, EKe).

Rusty Blackbird: There were a total of 32 reports of 172 individuals from 15 counties. High counts: 32 on 21 Jan at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (AB) and 36 on 4 Feb at Shattuck Turf Farm *Dallas* (AB).

Brewer's Blackbird: Two records this season: One on 17 Dec at Galita Sewage Lagoon *Woodbury* (BFH) and five on 26 Dec at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

Common Grackle: There were 80 reports this season after 50 reports last year and 86 the year before with a high of 300 on 14 Dec at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (LM) and 231 on 27 Feb in rural *Scott* (KJM).

Great-tailed Grackle: One report of four on 5 Feb at Saylorville WA *Boone* (SHo).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: There were 20 reports this season after 143 last year and ten the year before with a high count of four on 16 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM).

Scarlet Tanager: One stayed a little too late and was recorded from 1-20 Dec (at which time it probably perished) at a feeder in Ames *Story* (SJD).

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Brenda Greaves	BGr	Jess Painter	JeP	Mikayla Winfield	MWi
Karl Grotheer	KGr	Jason Paulios	JPa	Aaron Yappert	AYa
Dawn Gunderson	DaG	Valerie Pennington	VJP	Bill Zales	BZA
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Francis L Moore (flmoore@forbin.net)

Report of the Projects Committee for 2023

Joel Haack, Chair

Members: Joel Haack, Matt Wetrich, Anna Buckardt Thomas, Susa Stonedahl.

The Committee conducted the annual grant competition in February and March, 2023. Extra efforts were made to publicize the grants to IOU members, county conservation boards, birding groups in Iowa as listed on the IOU website, and colleges and universities in Iowa and nearby states. We received 12 applications for the \$5000 allocated to the Committee. The Committee decided to provide funding for eight of the projects:

- Tallgrass Prairie Audubon Chapter for nighthawk nesting pads (\$400)
- Sac County Conservation Board for live-stream video cameras at a nest and feeder (\$300)
- Friends of the Ledges for tools and safety equipment to be used in invasive shrub removal (\$1000)
- Buena Vista County Conservation Board for egg replicas to provide education about local birds (\$497)
- Polk County Conservation Board for an avian inventory at Brown's Woods Forest Preserve (\$803)
- Iowa Bird Rehabilitation in Des Moines for four aviaries: two for rehabilitation of hummingbirds and small songbirds, and to provide space for two educational, non-flighted birds--an American Kestrel and a Short-Eared Owl (\$1000)
- Madison County Conservation Board for a Motus tower at Pammel State Park (\$500)
- Iowa Young Birders for birding backpacks to be placed at libraries for the use of young birders (\$500)

The Committee then proceeded with a request for proposals funded by a \$50,000 bequest IOU received several years ago. Funds are intended for infrastructure projects to assist with bird watching by the general public. After receiving no proposals last year, four were received this year. The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee to partially fund two of these: a bird viewing platform at Benton Slough and bird-related interpretive signage for an extension of the bike and pedestrian accessible trails in Nahant Marsh. The Executive Committee's decision to accept the Projects Committee recommendation was announced to the IOU at the fall meeting.

Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2022-23

Chris Caster

Reports were submitted for fifty-two counts this season. Counts held last year, but not submitting reports, included Yellow River Forest, Spirit Lake, Dunbar Slough, and Carroll County. The Marshalltown CBC, last held in 2013, has returned as the newly configured Marshall County CBC.

The state experienced cooler and wetter conditions in December of 2022 than in recent years. Snow was present on thirty-four counts – many counts reported 2 to 4 inches, and Decorah, Des Moines, Dallas County and Neal Smith NWR reported 6 inches or more. Frigid temperatures and strong northwesterly winds arrived on the 21st and 22nd, creating blizzard conditions (see references). Muscatine had a high of 1 degree and 30 to 40 mph winds on the 23rd. But temperatures fluctuated greatly over the count period as ten counts reported lows in single digits and ten counts reported highs in the 40s.

The species count was 143. The total bird count (753,583) was slightly above average. Keokuk had the highest count this year with 99 species. Other high counts: Davenport (93), Saylorville (85) and Clinton (84). DeSoto NWR (69) led the Missouri counts. NW Clayton County (57) led the northern counts. The average count this season had 14 field observers, 6 field parties, and 58 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

Seven regular species were found in record numbers. Many of the typically abundant winter birds were just that, but it was not a tremendous count for any group. There was diversity, but many species were in low numbers. Many species usually listed in Table 2 were moved to Table 3. Counts of gallinaceous birds, diurnal raptors, woodpeckers, and icterids were good. Waterfowl, frugivores, and winter finches had poor showings. Returns for gulls, owls, and sparrows were mixed. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

Canada Geese (173,480) and Cackling Geese (2,041) were typically abundant. Greater White-fronted Geese (345) and Snow Geese (1,371) were scarce after last season's record numbers, and completely absent from the Northern Third. The majority of Snows were on Missouri River counts. White-fronts were evenly divided between the rivers. Ross's Geese (11) were on five counts. Trumpeter Swans (5,497) crushed their previous high count, which had been closer to three thousand. Tundra Swans (1,264) were in average numbers at Clinton and Princeton. Four Mute Swans were at Davenport and another was at Clinton.

Mallards (25,329) had their lowest count since 2009. Wood Ducks (10), American Black Ducks (20), Gadwalls (257), Northern Shovelers (30), American Wigeons (22), and Northern Pintails (100) were all well below their averages. Only Green-winged Teal (231) were in typical numbers.

Canvasbacks (47,544) were the only ducks found in relatively high numbers. Seventy-five percent of those were at Keokuk. Common Goldeneyes (8,303) and Common Mergansers (12,201) were not far off their averages. Lesser Scaup (655), Bufflehead (384), Ruddy Ducks (381), Ring-necked Ducks (214), Greater Scaup (165), Hooded Mergansers (100) and Redhead (67) were well-off theirs. Red-breasted Mergansers (53) were the least abundant of the regular diving ducks, yet at twice their average. Long-tailed Ducks (2) were seen at Dubuque and Red Rock. Single White-winged and Black Scoters were at Keokuk.

Pied-billed Grebes (2) were present at Davenport and Rathbun. Horned Grebes (2) were at Clinton and Rathbun. American Coots (520) were reduced in number similarly to ducks, and Double-crested Cormorants (4) had their lowest count in eighteen years. Numbers of American White Pelicans (997) were surprisingly above average. Great Blue Herons (94) and Belted Kingfishers (98) were reported in only fair numbers. Sandhill Cranes (102) were reported from Clinton down to Davenport. Wilson's Snipes (18) were in good numbers, but only from W. Mercer County down to Keokuk. Killdeer (11) were scarce.

Ring-billed Gulls (31,902) were in average numbers, but Herring Gulls (1,057) were half what is typical. Iceland Gulls (3) and Glaucous Gulls (2) were all at Red Rock. Lesser Black-backed Gulls (10) set a new high and were on four counts. A Great Black-backed Gull was at Davenport.

Northern Bobwhites (94) were on nine counts with thirty-one at Lamoni. Wild Turkeys (2,960) and Ring-necked Pheasants (1,881) were easily found. Likely the snow cover heightened their visibility for observers. Gray Partridge (11) were on just three counts. Eurasian Collared-Doves (692) had their lowest count in seven years. Rock Pigeons (7,944) had a similar showing. Mourning Doves (3,435) counted better than last season but were still off their average.

Bald Eagles (4,510) had their best count in five. Surprisingly, Golden Eagles (3) equaled a twenty-year low following a record of sixteen eagles just last season. Northern Harriers (205) bettered last year's record high. Cooper's Hawks (106) and Sharp-shinned Hawks (52) dipped below their averages. Red-shouldered Hawks (27) numbers hold remarkably consistent. They have counted between 20 and 30 birds for the last eight years. Red-tailed Hawks (1,312) were about one-third off their average with their lowest count in over twenty-five years. Rough-legged Hawks (272) were again in above-average numbers following last year's record high. American Kestrels (459) had their lowest count in nine. Merlins (25) had a good count, about four birds below their average. Peregrine Falcons (5) were on five Mississippi River counts.

Eastern Screech-Owls (113) were found in below-average numbers. Great Horned Owls (191) had their lowest count in ten. Barred Owls (206) had their lowest in seven. Long-eared Owls (37) and Saw-whet Owls (17) were at their averages. Short-eared Owls (27) were found in good numbers.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (1,013) set a record, over their previous high by a third. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (2,492), Downy Woodpeckers (2,908),

Hairy Woodpeckers (827), Northern Flickers (736), and Pileated Woodpeckers (192) all had typical counts. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (21) had their lowest count in twenty. All but three of the sapsuckers were on Mississippi River counts.

Northern Shrikes (38) were again slightly below their average. Loggerhead Shrikes (5) were at Lamoni, Taylor County, and Omaha. Blue Jays (6,865) and American Crows (68,158) were abundant.

Black-capped Chickadees (5,597) and White-breasted Nuthatches (3,009) numbers were fair. Tufted Titmice (828) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (156) were found in good numbers. Brown Creepers (202) fell to an eighteen-year low. Winter Wrens (41) were in typical numbers, but Carolina Wrens (78) also fell to an eighteen-year low. Golden-crowned Kinglets (64) had a poor showing. Perhaps surprising, a fair number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (8) were reported.

Eastern Bluebirds (592) dropped to a thirteen-year low. American Robins (2,133) were well below their average, although their numbers do fluctuate greatly. Hermit Thrushes (33) were about half their average. Single Northern Mockingbirds were at Lamoni and Cass County, and a Brown Thrasher was also at Lamoni. Cedar Waxwings (1,923) were at a six-year low. Yellow-rumped Warblers (56) also fluctuate greatly, but they were about a third their average this season. European Starling numbers (71,668) were typical. Davenport and Des Moines both reported about 20,000.

Eastern Towhees (8) were reported from five counts. Spotted Towhees (4) were on three counts. After nearing all -time lows last season, American Tree Sparrows (21,274) set a record high. Dark-eyed Juncos (31,861) also set a new record. White-throated Sparrows (1,023), Harris's Sparrows (481), and White-crowned Sparrows (215) all had above-average counts. Swamp Sparrows (208) were about average. Fox Sparrows (30) were greatly reduced from last year's record high of 92. Song Sparrows (668) totals were somewhat low. A Field Sparrow was at Dubuque and a Lincoln's Sparrow was at Keokuk. Savannah Sparrows (3) were at Lost Nation, Des Moines, and Lamoni.

Horned Larks (9,542) had their best count in nine. Lapland Longspurs (8,358) were nearly thrice their average. Over two thousand were at Marshall County. Snow Buntings (3,510) had their best count over the past 12 CBCs. Meadowlarks (864) numbers were the highest in six years. Red-winged Blackbirds (104,530) have had three straight counts of over 100,000 birds. Comparable numbers have not been recorded in over thirty years. Brown-headed Cowbirds (5,721) were down only slightly from last year's record numbers. Common Grackles (9,622) had a typical year. Rusty Blackbirds (130) were found in fair numbers. Brewer's Blackbirds (3) were at Keokuk, Sioux City, and SE Webster County.

House Sparrows (29,846) had their best count over the past nine CBCs. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (3,690) were in record numbers and continue to expand their range. They were reported north to Decorah and west to Boone County, Jamaica, and Red Rock. Ames again reported a House Sparrow x

Eurasian Tree Sparrow hybrid. House Finch (2,679) and Purple Finch (381) numbers were lower than average. American Goldfinch (3,221) numbers were fair, but Pine Siskins (41) were scarce at a six-year low. Northern Cardinal (6,310) numbers were very typical. Three Red Crossbills were at Ida County. A single Common Redpoll was at Clinton.

NOTABLE MISSES

No count reported Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, Prairie Falcon (reported on 7 of last 10 counts), Common Loon, Snowy Owl, Gray Catbird (6 of last 10), Surf Scoter, Yellow-headed Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill, Chipping Sparrow, or Orange-crowned Warbler (5 of last 10).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

The most improbable bird on this year's count was the Tundra Bean-Goose at Lamoni. This Eurasian goose was a first for Iowa and had been entertaining birders from around the Midwest beginning Nov. 29th. It was still present for the count on Dec. 17th. I believe many would have moved the count date up to the 14th given the bird's rarity, but the Lamoni compiler exhibited remarkable restraint uncharacteristic of average birders. It should be mentioned that a Taiga Bean-Goose had once been on a Iowa CBC, when the unlikely vagrant was included on the DeSoto NWR count on Dec. 29th, 1984. The two races of Bean Goose were split by the American Ornithologists' Union (now the American Ornithological Society) in 2007.

Another tremendous find for the Iowa CBC was a count week Scarlet Tanager at Ames. That bird was a record late date by over two weeks. Last season's most improbable find was a Smith's Longspur at Clinton. This year, one was actually photographed on the ground during the Saylorville count. As mentioned in last year's summary, this species hadn't been reported on an Iowa count since 1992. Also exciting was a flock of eight Evening Grosbeaks at NW Clayton County.

A count week Black-legged Kittiwake was at Dubuque. A Northern Goshawk was found way down south in Lamoni. An Eastern Phoebe was at SE Clayton County and an American Pipit was at Humboldt County. A Townsend's Solitaire was at Ida County. Two Dickcissels were on the Omaha count. This makes the fourth year in the last six that a Dickcissel has been on the count. An Ovenbird was at Iowa City, the first on the count since 2006. Lastly, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Dubuque was the first on the count since 1992.

References: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship [IDALS]. 2022. Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist of Iowa. Iowa Monthly Weather Summary---December 2022. <iowaagriculture.gov/climatology-bureau/monthly-weather-report> Accessed 27 May 2023.

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Table 1. Site Data for 2022-2023 Christmas Bird Count

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Field Hr	Miles Car
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. SE Clayton County	44930	69	5372	6	4	31.25	338
2. Dubuque	44912	70	6684	20	4	16	133.26
3. Green Island	44911	82	9197	25	8	71.75	426
4. Clinton	44909	84	21103	14	6	50.75	345
5. Princeton	44916	79	23076	14	6	46.25	391
6. Davenport	44913	93	102731	20	9	72	417
7. Andalusia	44919	75	13058	8	4	36.5	279
8. Muscatine	44918	60	5494	13	5	33.75	304
9. W Mercer County	44921	69	9973	10	5	38.5	298
10. Burlington	44912	80	11651	17	8	58	312
11. Keokuk	44914	99	95819	7	6	52.5	463
MISSOURI RIVER							
12. Westfield	44910	58	4288	17	8	24	306
13. Sioux City	44912	51	14375	25	10	58.5	489
14. De Soto NWR	44923	69	24074	34	17	90.9	327
15. Omaha	44927	57	13708	21	na	na	na
NORTHERN THIRD							
16. NW Clayton County	44929	57	3029	8	4	25.75	239
17. Decorah	44912	56	8497	21	9	48	315.5
18. Bremer County	44912	51	6643	9	5	35.75	303
19. Worth County	44927	38	1985	7	5	40	316
20. Mason City	44912	54	14623	10	7	41	339
21. Union Slough NWR	44930	27	1525	8	6	23.75	348.5
22. Humboldt County	44914	42	3767	3	3	19.5	188
23. Cherokee	44925	35	1929	7	3	18	284
24. Canton	44926	46	1683	11	4	32.75	314
MIDDLE THIRD							
25. Lost Nation	44915	65	6143	13	5	38	412
26. North Linn	44923	42	5456	5	4	32	436
27. Cedar Rapids	44912	55	7214	6	5	36.7	212
28. Iowa City	44913	75	14669	45	15	81.7	439
29. Amana	44923	39	1915	9	4	22	65
30. Buchanan County	44920	57	7073	3	2	19.75	174
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	44913	60	23691	10	6	32.5	232
32. Eldora-Union	44909	38	1571	8	3	13.5	83
33. Marshall County	44914	50	9249	10	5	21.5	186
34. Grinnell	44926	24	762	3	2	16	96
35. Ames	44912	72	39090	33	15	na	417
36. Saylorville Reservoir	44913	85	25620	19	11	74.2	523
37. Des Moines	44921	60	107253	16	9	41.25	196
38. Neal Smith NWR	44930	44	3291	29	6	28.25	298.6
39. SE Webster County	44922	43	1133	11	na	55	na
40. Boone County	44926	57	9591	31	16	88	624.8
41. Jamaica	44909	65	9614	9	7	36	285
42. Dallas County	44912	50	4399	24	9	35	178
43. Sac County	44927	46	3468	4	4	22	103
44. Ida County	44926	44	2125	13	6	32	266.8
SOUTHERN THIRD							
45. Louisa Y	44910	61	5011	15	8	56.75	439
46. Red Rock Reservoir	44912	66	27805	8	5	31.5	133.1
47. Rathbun Reservoir	44911	63	7242	17	6	36	376
48. Lamoni	44912	77	12875	10	4	34.5	435
49. NE Madison County	44910	49	3470	13	11	29.75	201.5
50. Union County	44928	52	5024	1	1	9	154
51. Taylor County	44926	42	2761	7	3	8.5	272
52. Cass County	44923	37	1784	9	4	13.5	100
TOTALS			753583				

Miles Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pt	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Temp H	Snow Depth	Wind
3.5	2.75	6	0	0	30	33	1	N 5-10
9.5	2	na	2	13.5	13	21	1	W 0-14
14.45	3.75	37.5	1	0.5	23	26	1	SW 5-25
6.25	8.25	73	2	2.25	38	48	0	E 5-20
8.75	8.25	56	0	0	8	24	0	SE 5-10
19.25	16.5	110	2	3.5	11	22	0	W 15-20
3	5.25	32	1	6.5	2	15	2	NW 20-30
4.25	1.5	12	8	26.25	-8	1	2	NW 30-40
4.75	8.5	63	0	0	14	19	3	N 5-15
42	4	5	4	19	17	24	0	NW 10-15
16	2.8	na	0	0	16	31	0	SE 2-10
9	1.5	3	4	3.5	24	27	3	WNW 23-40
17.8	1.5	5	4	3	12	22	1	NW 5-29
36.5	1	0	2	2	20	23	0	NW 10-26
na	0	0	1	5	30	45	1	S 5-10
1.5	0.5	5	1	1	31	36	3	E 5-10
30	1	9	7	12.25	10	21	6	W 0-12
11	0	0	0	0	18	24	1	E 10-25
12.5	0	0	0	0	19	40	2	NW 0-2
15	0	0	5	14.5	12	19	3	NW 15-25
3	0	0	0	0	26	28	3	NNW 8-14
6.5	3	32	1	1.5	2	27	3	SE 3-13
0	0.5	15	0	0	16	34	2	SE 5-13
12.75	2.5	16	2	1.5	33	39	4	SW 0-12
11	3.5	25	0	0	20	27	0	NW 5-11
0	1	0	0	0	27	46	5	S 0-17
17	0.5	5	4	11	19	28	0	N
29.7	5	29	12	39.5	8	20	0	NW 5-15
8	4	16	0	0	25	40	4	S 15-20
2	4.75	44	0	0	1	14	4	W 10-15
12	0	0	1	4	4	15	1	NW 10-25
7.7	0	0	0	0	43	43	0	S 0-10
11.75	1	0.75	5	12	9	25	1	W 5-15
2	4	60	1	8	28	35	0	var. 0-2
43.5	3.75	10.5	7	14	13	19	4	NW 12-28
31	6.5	25	0	0	3	18	1	NW 5-21
24.75	0	0	2	6	2	18	6	N 0-30
7.45	2.06	32.1	3	3.5	27	30	12	W 10-22
0.5	0	0	0	0	9	17	1.5	NW 15
35.08	7.5	53.6	4	32	27	36	1	SE 0-16
11	1.5	20	1	2	27	38	0	S 5-15
23	0	0	3	3	12	15	6	NW 5-20
8	0	0	3	16	28	36	0	S 0-6
13.5	1	1	0	0	35	48	2	light 5-10
15	4	35	1	3.25	30	33	0	WSW 16-21
14.6	1.5	3.6	0	0	18	20	0.5	WNW13-23
7.75	2	15	2	6	20	27	0	NW 20-35
7.25	0	0	0	0	16	25	0	NW 12-15
2.75	0	0	3	8.75	24	32	0.25	W 15-30
3.5	1	11	0	0	20	46	1	N 5-17
1	0	0	0	0	33	46	0	SE 8-14
5	0	0	0	0	30	44	2	S 9-25

Table 2. Christmas Bird Count Data 2022-2023

Location	Gr											
	Sn Go	Ro Go	W-f Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	No Sh	Ga	Am Wi	Ma
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. SE Clayton County					6	1						154
2. Dubuque	cw			9	1300	14	cw			2		295
3. Green Island	320			277	1432	2	2			3		776
4. Clinton			10		2081	859	856		2	68		990
5. Princeton			21	9	12168	1776	388	1		1		612
6. Davenport	3		30	42	12942	25	14	2		6	1	2602
7. Andalusia				3	724	12	2					19
8. Muscatine				2	920			1		1		9
9. W Mercer County					553	21				1		240
10. Burlington	4		9	49	4490	219				47	1	308
11. Keokuk	9		63	10	3786	491			18	93	5	300
Subtotals	336	0	133	401	40402	3420	1262	4	20	222	7	6305
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Westfield	424	4	5	7	249					2	2	400
13. Sioux City	404	4	100	242	7757					1	5	502
14. De Soto NWR	152		11	21	9562	213				5		6681
15. Omaha	1		6	124	8742	182						32
Subtotals	981	8	122	394	26310	395	0	0	0	8	7	7615
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. NW Clayton County				2	101	9						
17. Decorah				2	2875	7						138
18. Bremer County				3	1818	6						283
19. Worth County					215	32						
20. Mason City				45	5709	127	1					501
21. Union Slough NWR												
22. Humboldt County					708			1		2		107
23. Cherokee					41							
24. Canton					4							2
Subtotals	0	0	0	52	11471	181	1	1	0	2	0	1031
MIDDLE THIRD												
25. Lost Nation					250	17						
26. North Linn				871								
27. Cedar Rapids				4	2670	55						316
28. Iowa City				2	7589	37		2	1	8		376
29. Amana					2							
30. Buchanan County				2	3168							79
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1		2		5979	190						309
32. Eldora-Union	1				1010					2		18
33. Marshall County	6				3780	5						77
34. Grinnell					266							
35. Ames	6	cw	10	101	17068	91					2	790
36. Saylorville Reservoir	6		3	67	14438	174			8	2	2	2461
37. Des Moines	1				12595	354		1		1		842
38. Neal Smith NWR					311	4						14
39. SE Webster County				6	450	3						17
40. Boone County					122	13						31
41. Jamaica	16	2	64	47	5226	122		2		8	3	1332
42. Dallas County	7			3	1139	52						
43. Sac County					2053	17	1			1		126
44. Ida County					84							32
Subtotals	44	2	79	1103	78200	1134	1	5	9	22	7	6820
SOUTHERN THIRD												
45. Louisa Y	1				918	128						36
46. Red Rock Reservoir	1				1537	104			1			1180
47. Rathbun Reservoir	1			9	3050	27				3		2034
48. Lamoni	7	1	8	77	6717	cw						155
49. NE Madison County					209	4						41
50. Union County			3	3	3114						1	2
51. Taylor County				2	1132							60
52. Cass County					420	104						50
Subtotals	10	1	11	91	17097	367	0	0	1	3	1	3558
TOTALS	1371	11	345	2041	173480	5497	1264	10	30	257	22	25329

Am Bl Du	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	No Bo	Wi Tu
1													3	77
3	4		314		2		44	130	2	46	3			10
5	37	11	255	21	15	20	40	60		3		1		45
	30		7000		4	18	28	782	6	24	5	200		2
	3	7				100		199		211			6	15
8	2	7	4020	11	46	263	53	3254	10	599	3	6		11
		1			2			71		10				41
								8		81				7
										504			12	111
1	9	144	6	2	36	23	13	9	8	18		5		30
		15	35945	18	56	141	187	3119	12	250		153		8
18	85	185	47540	52	161	565	365	7632	38	1746	11	365	21	357
			2		4		1	2	1	18		4		111
		12		1	6	25		130		41				320
	1				15	5	2	16		16				373
		3				1		19	4	12				119
0	1	15	2	1	25	31	3	167	5	87	0	4	0	923
	1								1					106
						1								47
														28
														74
				2	2	1	2	6						190
									2	1				3
														16
														29
								4						65
0	1	0	0	2	2	2	2	10	3	1	0	0	0	558
1													11	48
					1			2						115
	3	3		4	1	3	1	14	3	10	2	8	1	69
														7
	1						1	1						27
						2		5						247
														71
														99
	1	1	cw	1	cw	1	1	8	2	5				21
	1	1	3				1	30	2	231				20
					9	3		128	16	2				25
														27
					16	1								5
														13
														76
	1	1		4	5	27	2	13	1	55		3		11
	1				1								15	7
2	8	7	1	8	18	52	6	201	24	303	2	11	27	888
				1		2		2		13				3
			1		2			280	6	9572	8	1		41
		23			4		4	3	24	475	32			13
	2			3	2	3	3			4			31	65
		1					1						8	82
	1							8					7	30
	2													
0	5	24	1	4	8	5	8	293	30	10064	40	1	46	234
20	100	231	47544	67	214	655	384	8303	100	12201	53	381	94	2960

Location	Ri Ne Ph	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Am Co	Ki	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Le B-b Gu	Am Wh Pe	Gr Bi He	Go Ea
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. SE Clayton County	8	380	4	54		2	1				1	
2. Dubuque		103		84	6		719	12				
3. Green Island	1	115		130		5	214	35				1
4. Clinton	2	104	29	133	22		1125	25			4	
5. Princeton	4	324	4	109			73	19		1	6	
6. Davenport		634	2	249	25		4187	139	2	143	14	
7. Andalusia	5	69	20	420			17				3	
8. Muscatine	1	3		21								
9. W Mercer County		61	4	190							1	
10. Burlington		138	4	108	1		1875	11		246	4	
11. Keokuk	1	395	9	200	435	1	13000	325	5	232	56	
Subtotals	22	2326	76	1698	489	8	21211	566	7	622	89	1
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Westfield	10	53	17	6		1						
13. Sioux City	9	591	97	5								
14. De Soto NWR	26	126	33	145								
15. Omaha		203	15	6								
Subtotals	45	973	162	162	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. NW Clayton County	8	96		10		2					1	
17. Decorah	51	158	3	60								1
18. Bremer County	39	221	12	68								
19. Worth County	38	221	3	1								cw
20. Mason City	44	144	6	46	1							
21. Union Slough NWR	346	149	6									
22. Humboldt County	249	63	1	3								
23. Cherokee	166	151	4	50								
24. Canton	65	98	61	135								
Subtotals	1006	1301	96	373	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
MIDDLE THIRD												
25. Lost Nation	14	153	30	39								
26. North Linn	19	34	11	24								
27. Cedar Rapids	2	135		196			34				1	
28. Iowa City	13	146		215			1			1		cw
29. Amana	20	17	5	8								
30. Buchanan County	84	127	31	15								
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	26	169	5	40								
32. Eldora-Union	4	27	15	2								
33. Marshall County	43	534	2	38			1					
34. Grinnell	3	27										
35. Ames	151	213	39	143	cw			cw			1	
36. Saylorville Reservoir	38	224	59	204			518	63	1	3		
37. Des Moines	2	308		16	3					39		
38. Neal Smith NWR	3	37	42	36								
39. SE Webster County	20	75	7	1	1							
40. Boone County	43	270	44	30								
41. Jamaica	17	57	23	8	4		1	1				
42. Dallas County	37	11		13								
43. Sac County	88	18	4	1								
44. Ida County	150	124		4								
Subtotals	777	2706	317	1033	8	0	555	64	1	43	2	0
SOUTHERN THIRD												
45. Louisa Y	13	115	11	106	2							
46. Red Rock Reservoir	1	39					10059	426	2	330	1	
47. Rathbun Reservoir		50	2	10			77	1		2	1	
48. Lamoni	3	225	14	2	20						cw	1
49. NE Madison County	3	46	3	7								
50. Union County	4	54	1	18								
51. Taylor County	6	106	2	26								
52. Cass County	1	3	8									
Subtotals	31	638	41	169	22	0	10136	427	2	332	2	1
TOTALS	1881	7944	692	3435	520	11	31902	1057	10	997	94	3

No Ha	Sh Ha	Co Ha	ac sp	Ba Ea	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki
3	1	1		72	2	29	14	15	10	15	2	2	1	7
5	1	3		49	1	18	4	4	1					3
28	6	4		153		44	4	8	7	13	5		2	4
5	1	2		62	1	18		9	3	13	1		1	6
3		3		95	1	24	4	5	7	9	1	1	2	2
8	1	7		266	2	59	2	4	16	24				9
4	1	5		144	1	33	9	3	8	7	1		2	
3		4		60	1	12	9	1	2	2				
9	1	1		144	1	27	13	4	8	9			2	
4	2	4		128		29	3	4	2	8		1		1
1	1	2		894	4	44	3	14	6	2	2		2	4
73	15	36	0	2067	14	337	65	71	70	102	12	4	12	36
1				23		10	9	2	3	3				
3	2	4		19		28	3		1	1				
11	3	6		71	1	54	8		5	7		4		2
5		4		80		70		1		2				1
20	5	14	0	193	1	162	20	3	9	13	0	4	0	3
1	1			31		16		2	4	3		3		4
1	2	1		139		38	13				1			7
12	1			84	3	9	3		1	2		2		
1				14		23	6		3	1				2
3		3		44		17	5		5	1	1			4
	1			8		9	4							
		1		28		14	3							2
	1	1		20		37	9							1
1	1	1		15		14	16	1	2				2	
19	7	7	0	383	3	177	59	3	15	7	2	5	2	20
14	2			99		31	8	6	11	9	7	2	1	2
		2		49		20	18			2				
2	1	1		55		14				1				4
5		9		99		45	6	1	6	4			1	3
4			3	15		2	3		1	3				
1		2		33		15	4		4	2	2	2		2
2	2	1		40	2	17	2		1	1	1		1	1
				24		6			2					4
1		1		44	2	13	4		2	1				
		1		10		11	2		3	1				
4	2	6		33		46	4	1	5	8				2
6	3	2		402	1	57	7	3	21	15	1	4		1
		3		127		19			1	3	1	1		2
3		1		17	2	22	6		cw	3		2		
				16		3	3							3
4	1	6		75		61	5	16	19	11				3
	1	2		41		16		1		3				2
5	1	3		57		25	5		3	2	3			3
	cw			36		26	1		cw	2				
	2	1		15		20	3	2	3	1	8			2
51	15	41	3	1287	7	469	81	30	82	72	23	11	3	34
2	1	1		119		25		1	3	6				
3	2		1	125		14		1	1			1		1
7	1	1		107		12	2	1	1					
12	2	2		102	2	58	26	1	4	1		1		2
4	1		1	26		13	5							1
5	1	1		24		14	6	1	4	3		1		
8	2	2	2	46		23	8	1	2	2				
1		1		31		8								1
42	10	8	4	580	2	167	47	6	15	12	0	3	0	5
205	52	106	7	4510	27	1312	272	113	191	206	37	27	17	98

Location	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	No Sh	Bl Ja
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. SE Clayton County	5	67	1	68	30	12	8	31	1		1	198
2. Dubuque	15	50		55	12	10	4	9				89
3. Green Island	56	118	2	93	42	62	11	20			4	441
4. Clinton	25	50	3	55	31	13	7	14			1	143
5. Princeton	39	75		81	28	14	6	26			1	241
6. Davenport	30	121	3	160	42	30	15	21		1		183
7. Andalusia	24	82	3	88	21	21	6	8	2	1		159
8. Muscatine	11	42	1	60	13	5	4	6		1		86
9. W Mercer County	30	72		72	20	16	7	10			1	89
10. Burlington	32	91	2	68	26	22	6	28		1		214
11. Keokuk	16	99	3	80	17	33	12	19	1	1		379
Subtotals	283	867	18	880	282	238	86	192	4	5	8	2222
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Westfield	2	12		21	5	2		3				55
13. Sioux City	15	53		73	19	10	1	1	3		1	45
14. De Soto NWR	65	111		113	20	40	7	15	1		2	244
15. Omaha	168	51	1	77	18	30	3	7	1		1	55
Subtotals	250	227	1	284	62	82	11	26	5	0	4	399
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. NW Clayton County	5	35		32	17	14	5	5	1			90
17. Decorah	1	74		68	26	14	10	5			1	202
18. Bremer County	5	42		45	18	8	2	5			1	91
19. Worth County		11		13	8	1	2	2	1			75
20. Mason City	1	21		50	13	3		4				115
21. Union Slough NWR		3		5	4				1			7
22. Humboldt County		17		26	5			1				32
23. Cherokee		8		7	3	2		2				109
24. Canton	2	13		33	7	5		1			4	77
Subtotals	14	224	0	279	101	47	19	25	3	0	6	798
MIDDLE THIRD												
25. Lost Nation	96	74		76	13	22	11	15	1			305
26. North Linn	14	21		27	9	10	1	11	1		1	81
27. Cedar Rapids	20	32		91	11	10	1	7	1			114
28. Iowa City	53	100		136	23	24	8	10				214
29. Amana	7	10		16	2	3		10				27
30. Buchanan County	1	17		26	15	8	6	4			3	129
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	4	35		32	8	6	1	2	1		2	88
32. Eldora-Union		29		23	6	8	2	4				36
33. Marshall County	1	17		32	2	2	3	9				66
34. Grinnell		3				1		3				9
35. Ames	2	126		199	61	15	1	10	1		1	247
36. Saylorville Reservoir	27	125	2	128	35	56	3	3	3		3	272
37. Des Moines	5	54		86	11	18	5		2			83
38. Neal Smith NWR	7	56		64	12	15		4			2	115
39. SE Webster County		8		6	1	1	2					4
40. Boone County	43	148		166	72	19	16	14	2		5	366
41. Jamaica	28	35		48	9	11	4	6			1	156
42. Dallas County	3	48		49	26	11		1			1	81
43. Sac County	cw	12		23	9	4	cw	1	1			45
44. Ida County	3	10		16	4	1		6			1	83
Subtotals	314	960	2	1244	329	245	64	120	13	0	20	2521
SOUTHERN THIRD												
45. Louisa Y	51	41		43	17	10		32				102
46. Red Rock Reservoir	22	59		42	7	7	3	7				91
47. Rathbun Reservoir	15	23		23	1	7		2				117
48. Lamoni	47	35		30	14	54	7	14				261
49. NE Madison County	4	33		56	4	18		10				166
50. Union County	3	7		6	4	8		12				79
51. Taylor County	6	8		9	1	14	2	17				88
52. Cass County	4	8		12	5	6		2				21
Subtotals	152	214	0	221	53	124	12	96	0	0	0	925
TOTALS	1013	2492	21	2908	827	736	192	459	25	5	38	6865

Am Cr	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Ho La	Ru Cr Ki	Go Cr Ki	Ce Wa	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Wi Wr	Ca Wr	Eu St	Ea Bl	He Th
135	163	30	16	1	3	55	1	114	7	3	1	546	61	
97	121	13	7			50	2	35	4	1	cw	697	12	
387	179	26	194	1	5	100	1	75	15	6	1	666	60	7
697	163	31	4	3	19		4	77	7	2	2	2269	10	
30	123	7	155		1	2	2	83	11	1	3	1043	1	1
128	405	77	41		6	28	11	196	16	3	10	19281	5	3
217	187	47	861	1	4	21	3	62	17	1	5	820	10	10
61	95	45	541		2	3	7	38	9		1	129		
69	102	12	528		1	3		80	9	3	3	732	2	2
147	129	63	30		2	100	13	71	4		3	450	10	
27573	220	91	82	1	4	63	3	93	14	2	13	3011	18	2
29541	1887	442	2459	7	47	425	47	924	113	22	42	29644	189	25
98	10		699				1	12	1			102	6	
48	87		1			37	1	64	2			1032	14	1
68	287	17	14			183	12	127	5	1	4	1636	16	
77	232	36			7	48	6	110	12	3	21	1409	37	
291	616	53	714	0	7	268	20	313	20	4	25	4179	73	1
198	72		4		2	17		45	6	2	1	472	20	1
364	157	16	17			148	17	62	3	3		430	21	
127	60		295			47		38				36		
93	23		18			1		6				61		
3237	114		521			8	4	35	2			389	5	
78	15		576					3				37		
92	61		743				1	31				249		2
313	20		9			45		4				268	13	
55	24		58			47		21	2			167		
4557	546	16	2241	0	2	313	22	245	13	5	1	2109	59	3
124	107	2	42		3	9	3	71	4	4	1	628	1	1
64	45	2	266			19	2	33				434		
305	152	33	166			35	2	78	4	2	1	329	13	
206	275	103	16			54	11	102	4	cw	3	694	14	
21	25		600			12	2	16				200		
119	53	1	116			55	2	33	1			230		1
13684	46		85			33	1	29	2	1		409	1	
36	25							26	1			11	1	
83	26		262				2	19				228	2	
159	3							5				100		
10300	344		742			87	4	175	10	1	2	2863	22	2
244	198	15	192	1	1	70		108	5		1	1290	38	
5871	147	17	1			4	2	110	1		1	20243	28	
61	62					6	1	54				551	17	
4	10		10				3	3				101	1	
280	339	53	8			42	6	228	5			3144	29	
94	95		1			13		53	1			312	16	
134	88	12	724			49		55	4			199	14	
37	43	1	100			5	1	42	2			288		
96	9		105			5	8	20				358		
31922	2092	239	3436	1	4	498	50	1260	44	8	9	32612	197	4
81	97	21	2		1	12	1	49	5	1		1031	1	
132	98	8	1		1	44	1	49	1			607	25	
226	20	13	60			43	1	23				151		
750	114	34	526		2	149	2	46	3	1	1	329	23	
212	91	2	58			22		64	3			334	21	
129	10		8			148	1	5				199	2	
307	14					1		6				146	2	
10	12		37				11	25				327		
1847	456	78	692	0	4	419	17	267	12	2	1	3124	74	0
68158	5597	828	9542	8	64	1923	156	3009	202	41	78	71668	592	33

Location	Am Ro	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp	Ho Fi	Pu Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	La Lo	Sn Bu	Fo Sp	Am Tr Sp	Da Ey Ju
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. SE Clayton County	327	1030	8	57	1		33	290	25		328	660
2. Dubuque	189	703	5	20	6		60			1	117	901
3. Green Island	99	294	26	48	11		168	65		2	630	965
4. Clinton	3	764	169	52	7	1	84	83	9		207	961
5. Princeton	6	1459	170	82	4		62	60	2		1034	1121
6. Davenport	19	4236	637	256	15	13	211	2		8	301	1703
7. Andalusia	3	1121	651	108	15	2	82	1277	130	1	1248	3355
8. Muscatine		581	323	60	17	12	87	619	33		464	713
9. W Mercer County	2	447	574	15	32	2	21	587	27	1	953	1151
10. Burlington	2	526	102	92	118	5	136				268	541
11. Keokuk	8	401	358	74	6		114	75			389	604
Subtotals	658	11562	3023	864	232	35	1058	3058	226	13	5939	12675
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Westfield	1	303		4			10	755	35	1	483	256
13. Sioux City	1	399		60			59				473	712
14. De Soto NWR	43	658		40	3		93			1	1158	508
15. Omaha	13	328		17			68				406	248
Subtotals	58	1688	0	121	3	0	230	755	35	2	2520	1724
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. NW Clayton County	16	554	10	52	1		60	2		1	177	379
17. Decorah	529	257	cw	91	10		221	5	30		481	1411
18. Bremer County		750	1	16	1		26	132	790	1	628	666
19. Worth County	19	184		16	4		28	4	675		51	38
20. Mason City	1	882		151	cw		61	320	981	cw	175	490
21. Union Slough NWR		174		4			24		22		29	1
22. Humboldt County		396		25	1		32	63	387		88	161
23. Cherokee	16	351		12	1		1				58	160
24. Canton	4	270		25	5		28	2	20		65	125
Subtotals	585	3818	11	392	23	0	481	528	2905	2	1752	3431
MIDDLE THIRD												
25. Lost Nation		1329	50	5	1		75	28	2	2	1069	972
26. North Linn	263	883	60	8	12		14	72	62		772	957
27. Cedar Rapids	11	796	44	116	2		125	2			242	482
28. Iowa City	10	981	133	83	18	1	108			3	487	964
29. Amana		270	25	32			16				225	225
30. Buchanan County	25	482	13	28	1		28	18	19	1	599	1037
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		717	36	60			76	3	138		437	735
32. Eldora-Union		83	2	5			8				31	67
33. Marshall County	6	398	18	18	2		37	2074	53		677	476
34. Grinnell		22		16			14				22	48
35. Ames	100	1416	11	315	2	4	146	46	11	3	1145	1459
36. Saylorville Reservoir	18	659		147	2		110	29	2	1	869	1117
37. Des Moines	2	258		88			50		1	1	154	295
38. Neal Smith NWR	32	605	43	72			24				497	271
39. SE Webster County		38		2	1	1	2	1	50		35	104
40. Boone County	11	1409	1	49	18		170	21	1		499	689
41. Jamaica	19	342	2	40			47				91	195
42. Dallas County	66	129		29	5		59	17			506	599
43. Sac County	2	113		18			19			1	122	53
44. Ida County		140		17	4		35	450			122	137
Subtotals	565	11070	438	1148	68	6	1163	2761	339	12	8601	10882
SOUTHERN THIRD												
45. Louisa Y	1	613	213	27	4		17	5	4		309	411
46. Red Rock Reservoir	2	285	5	33	3		27	400		1	363	494
47. Rathbun Reservoir	3	54		6	7		54	10			114	157
48. Lamoni	58	321		7	14		64	291	1		630	1066
49. NE Madison County	3	224		26	22		64	550			285	570
50. Union County	187	95		52	5		39				271	223
51. Taylor County	12	17		1			20				407	129
52. Cass County	1	99		2			4				83	99
Subtotals	267	1708	218	154	55	0	289	1256	5	1	2462	3149
TOTALS	2133	29846	3690	2679	381	41	3221	8358	3510	30	21274	31861

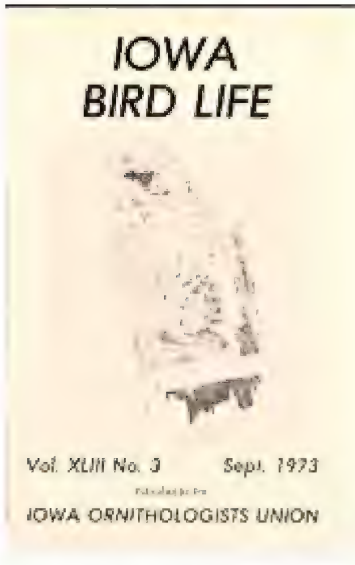
Wh Cr Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Th Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Ea To	We Me	me sp	Re Wi Bl	Br He Co	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Ye Ru Wa	No Ca
7		8	19	4								3	147
8	2	19	7	2				1	1			2	163
2		18	16	14	2			3			12	13	133
5		59	12	5	3			182				6	245
7		5	16	8				350	122	2	178		198
		230	113	56				29889	5010	33	9060	6	331
19		102	62	36				7	31	7	205	1	278
3		17	31	9				1			1	1	213
1		23	28	19		9		2005	12	7	10	1	235
1		53	10	2				101	2	1		2	178
5	2	82	54	27			1	796	85	27	1	6	362
58	4	616	368	182	5	9	1	33335	5263	77	9467	41	2483
1	15		1			11	4	1					4
4	1		1			20		751	8				64
10	108	2	17					389		3	6		151
54	30	3	14					249					181
69	154	5	33	0	0	31	547	1193	8	3	6	0	400
2		2	10	5				23	235				48
1		4	5					40			1	2	224
		4	13	1				96					96
1	6	4	1										17
													118
	21		2					74			8		3
	2						2				2		53
	2					43		75	4				13
4	31	14	31	6	0	43	2	308	239	0	11	2	584
2		7	4	2	1			34	5	7		3	176
		22	4				2						119
		86	30	3				125	1				179
22	2	69	21	5	1			806	14		4		254
2		6	1					4	30				18
2	1	12	8	2			1	1				2	153
1	1	2	4					5			2		138
		2	1					13					28
1	4		1				8		1		1		67
													12
13	37	41	32			1	1	2	1	1			322
2	22	49	38	3		2	1	326	85	2	15	1	208
9	11	22	16					65002			3		147
	17	5						9	1		cw		94
							1	100	1	3			3
	35	7	12	1				643	1	20			188
	12	5	1				2	817					43
	8	13						1			10	1	62
1	22		1					2	1	5	100		18
	4					5		6				1	17
55	176	348	174	16	2	8	19	67896	141	38	135	8	2246
8		18	16	4	1			1	65		1		123
6	2	13	10					1125					84
2	3	1	2				30	48	4	1			41
5	43	4	4			20	64	154				5	112
	23	3	14				15	1	1		1		114
8	24	1	1				6	140		11			64
	17						23				1		34
	4		15			12		329					25
29	116	40	62	4	1	32	138	1798	70	12	3	5	597
215	481	1023	668	208	8	123	707	104530	5721	130	9622	56	6310

Table 3. Species Reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2022-2023

Species	Counts
Tundra Bean-Goose	Lamoni (1)
Mute Swan	Clinton (1), Davenport (4)
Greater Scaup	Davenport (9), Keokuk (152), Jamaica (4)
White-winged Scoter	Keokuk (1)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (1)
Long-tailed Duck	Dubuque (1), Red Rock (1)
duck sp.	DeSoto (13)
Gray Partridge	Bremer County (5), Union Slough NWR (5), Jamaica (1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Davenport (1), Rathbun (1)
Horned Grebe	Clinton (1), Rathbun (1)
Sandhill Crane	Clinton (82), Princeton (2), Davenport (18)
Wilson's Snipe	W. Mercer County (5), Burlington (4), Keokuk (9)
Black-legged Kittiwake	Dubuque (cw)
Iceland Gull	Red Rock (3)
Glaucous Gull	Red Rock (2)
Great Black-backed Gull	Davenport (1)
gull sp.	Louisa Y (40)
Double-crested Cormorant	Burlington (1), Saylorville (3)
Northern Goshawk	Lamoni (1)
buteo sp.	DeSoto (8), Iowa City (2), Taylor County (17)
woodpecker sp.	Neal Smith NWR (2)
Eastern Phoebe	SE Clayton County (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Omaha (1), Lamoni (2), Taylor County (2)
shrike sp.	Rathbun (1)
Townsend's Solitaire	Ida County (1)
Brown Thrasher	Lamoni (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Lamoni (1), Cass County (1)
House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Ames (1)
American Pipit	Humboldt County (1)
Evening Grosbeak	NW Clayton County (8)
Common Redpoll	Clinton (1)
Red Crossbill	Ida County (3)
Smith's Longspur	Saylorville (1)
Field Sparrow	Dubuque (1)
Savannah Sparrow	Lost Nation (1), Des Moines (1), Lamoni (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Keokuk (1)
sparrow sp.	DeSoto (4), Neal Smith NWR (81), Louisa Y (23)
Spotted Towhee	DeSoto (2), Eldora-Union (1), Boone County (1)
Eastern Meadowlark	W. Mercer County (26), Decorah (1), Lamoni (7)
Brewer's Blackbird	Keokuk (1), Sioux City (1), Jamaica (1)
Dickcissel	Omaha (2)
Ovenbird	Iowa City (1)
Scarlet Tanager	Ames (cw)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Dubuque (1)

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The September 1973 *Iowa Bird Life* was a fairly average 28-page issue. In the lead article, Mrs. W. C. DeLong of Lamoni described her trip with a group of students from Graceland College to Yucatan, Belize, and Guatemala. Their main objective was to view the ruins of the Tikal region but here she describes her encounters with several new bird species she saw on her trip.

The fall meeting was held 22-23 September in Burlington with 56 people attending. No business meeting was held. The Saturday evening speaker was not able to attend and talks on birds of Colombia and nesting American Coots were presented instead. The 99 species found on the field trips included most of the expected species for this time of year including 14 warbler and 9 sparrow species. Current members will be surprised to learn that Canada Goose, Wild Turkey,

American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and Ring-billed Gull, all now common fall birds, were not found.

In another article, Gladys Black described birding areas in Marion County. With the closing of Red Rock Dam in 1969, many of the areas familiar to current birders were either undeveloped or very different from current conditions.

The summer field reports section is fairly long with coverage extending from April into September. Some of the more interesting reports were nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge and nesting Pine Siskins in Sioux City. Other birds of interest were Eared and Western grebes in June, a flock of 15 Whimbrels, and two Black-billed Magpies in Linn County.

Among the book reviews, two of the more interesting were of a reissue of Arlie Schorger's classic book on the Passenger Pigeon and a book on cranes of the world by Lawrence Walkinshaw.

A letter from I.O.U. President Darlene Ayres urging greater participation in I.O.U. activities, an article on birds illustrated on postage stamps, and a notice describing an upcoming North American Hawk Migration Conference in Syracuse, New York fill out the issue.

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Wild Turkey, Yellow Banks Park, Polk, 1 February 2023. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.



American White Pelican, Lake Red Rock, Marion, 18 December 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.



Great Horned Owl, Crawford Creek, Ida, 8 January 2023. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$35, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at IBL@iowabirds.org. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at lgdau9@gmail.com. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are: 1 January for the fall season, 1 April for the winter season, 1 July for the spring season, and 1 October for the summer season.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your online profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and email changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Snow Bunting, Harrier Marsh area, *Boone*, 30 January 2023. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Jester Park, *Polk*, 10 January 2023. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

LAYOUT: Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

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